

TOC H JOURNAL

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Communications for next month must reach the Editor not later than the 15th of this month.

FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

Easter Day falls this year on the last day of March. And so this month's JOURNAL may well open with a memory of a war-time Easter in the Old House at Poperinghe. It originally appeared, some time ago, in the pages of The Johnian, the magazine of St. John's College, Winnipeg. A few words about its author will follow fittingly at the end of it.—Ed.

FLANDERS' FIELDS, 1916—and Good Friday. Christ is dead and all the world a seething cauldron of hatred. My heart is black with despair, for where in all this universe is to be found anything like unto love? In the distance hell reigns supreme; the sky toward that ghastly Ypres salient, my home for the last eight months, is red, and the little town whose cobbled stones my weary feet are now treading is devoid of inhabitants upon first sight, save those hundreds in khaki, dressed and advancing in the same monotonous style as has been their custom these twenty months of war.

"The darkness comprehendeth it not," this ceaseless passing of youth, of the best of life the world has to give: and as I wandered through the Grande Place and along the Rue de l'Hopital, I stopped at the entrance of a large white house and wondered if I should enter as I had many times before. "All rank abandon ye who enter here," were the words contained upon a notice that hung over another door just inside the hall, and I smiled as my fingers found their touch upon a single piece of braid upon my right arm. Rank indeed—but I had more than this to abandon if I would enter as bidden into this house, and with this thought I turned away.

Only a few months back, in the light and warmth of that great white house, I, with my many comrades, had listened to a padre talking as padres are wont to do on Sunday evenings; but this had been Christmas time, and on Christmas Day in the cellars of the Prison in Ypres I had sung very lustily the same old hymns I had always sung at this time—it was the tune—the words came later. I remembered them now; some words beautiful, others absurd, for how could an ordinary fellow understand, for example: "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail, the Incarnate Deity"? That meant nothing to me, and again, "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"—that was easy, but now—perhaps I am not in a fit state of mind, so horribly fed up, tired, dirty, thinking all the time of home. Hell! how can a fellow see the truth of such words as these?

Good Friday—and Saturday the same—next day Sunday. Thank God, no drill, no fatigue duty ; I'm not on guard, and bacon for breakfast. But there's church parade, blow it !—the Army always manages to butt in and spoil a fellow's rest.

Here comes old John Smith. I wonder what he wants. Am I going with him to the Salvation Army canteen for a service to-morrow ? No, I'll be damned if I am—can't stick that humbug sort of yelling and praying. I'm going to lie in all day, at least until dinner, and go round to see Mam'selle who's putting on a little two-step for the boys. Poor old John looks hurt, but says nothing as he slowly turns away. After all, I like old John immensely ; he's bald-headed and a Wesleyan Methodist, but a darn good soldier ; never gets fed up, never grumbles or grouses, and always ready to talk to a fellow, and somehow the old humbug is interesting, though I can't for the life of me swallow his stuff.

I try to sleep, but I keep thinking of to-morrow ; don't know why—it's only Sunday like any other Sunday I have spent out here in this filthy mud and clay, but it's Easter Day. Something insists upon whispering in my ear, *Easter, Easter* ; what's that to me ? The hymns to-morrow at the church parade will be very well worth yelling extra loud. Let's see, how does that one go ?—used to sing it often enough as a nipper in the old village choir at home—lots of "Alleluias" in it. Oh, I know. "Jesus Christ is risen to-day, Alleluia, Alleluia." Easter—Easter Day.

Hot cross buns at home—what fun ! After—after what ? Why breakfast—no, after church, of course. Goodness, I'd forgotten that ; we used to attend early church at home ; why, of course we did, sometimes as early, if not earlier, than these confounded "froggies"—6, 7, and 8 o'clock in the early morning. They'll all be going to early church to-morrow morning at home, in the li'l dear old church in the village. I wouldn't be surprised if mother and father went this Easter morning. Why shouldn't they go, nothing to do with me ; I used to go—had to go ; well, well, I wonder, perhaps I'll go if I can get up early enough. But where ? no church here. Oh, I know, that big white House ; that little fat parson is sure to have Communion. Easter Day—I think I'll go somehow.

Easter Day, 1916, 7 a.m., and the Upper Room is full ; officers and men the little Padre officiating ; been there since 5.30 a.m.—so I'm told after. No more room—have to wait on that shaky old ladder. Goodness, what a crowd ! general too, all sorts and conditions. He has to make the service short, just break and lift and give without pause, all these hours—over 400 men being fed. Some are descending the ladder that leads to that Upper Room, only one at a time can manage it. I wonder how many of them will come back again, poor devils got to keep going up into that hell of Ypres.

Easter Day ; "Christ is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia." It's nice and warm and comfortable in this House. I must go up that ladder and join in with the rest. "Mustn't step in the middle of the floor, likely to crash through ; keep to the sides, please. Queer things this little Padre chips in at a Communion. He looks funny in his vestments and the large cross hanging down his back, but he looks wonderful

happy. I like that little Padre. I wonder if I might edge in close to this "Red tab," a staff officer; got to get in somewhere. My! this place is crammed with officers and fellows.

I must stop thinking—it's Communion—and listen to what the funny little parson says, or I'll get mixed up. No prayer books around. "Preserve thy body and soul. Drink this; drink this." I can't help wondering how he can say all that so many times without a break. Goodness, he has run short of wine. Wonder what he'll do now; never seen that done before. "Likewise after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me." Amen.

Complete silence—Easter Day—"He is risen, Alleluia." "Preserve thy body and soul." "Take, eat, drink ye": and in my ear distinctly heard "Peace—it is I; be not afraid." A curious feeling of comfort and warmth—peace all around—and in that Upper Room, 400 were fed—four hundred gallant and noble-minded men who came to the feet of Christ conscious more than ever before in their lives of the dominating reality of God.

The darkness comprehendeth it all—Light of light—very God—begotten, not made—who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was made man. He is risen: and the road to Ypres became my Emmaus Road. No longer homeless amid all that is hideous and awful, no longer lonely in Flanders' Fields; no more of that dreadful sense of being doomed to die. Christ is risen that we might have life and have it more abundantly. H. M.

So wrote Harry Moss, one-time Lance-Corporal of the Essex Regiment. It is not "done" to publish the biographies of living Toc H members—else what real romances might fill these pages, what heartening examples for the desponding member, what unanswerable argument to any outsider who doubts that Toc H, with all its shortcomings, is "God's show"! Last August Harry Moss wrote to the Editor—as a competitor for the prize of a 1929 volume of this JOURNAL which was offered by Tubby in the August number to "our furthest kindred" in five Continents. His letter was headed with an address in Manitoba, with the names of four churches—and over against them his own, "Rev. H. Moss, D.C.M., Rector."

"First, many thanks," he writes, "for the wonderful Summer Double Number, which cheered this fellow's heart. Yesterday I made up my mind to take the Ford and trundle about 70-80 miles visiting folk, which is a parson's greatest job here, so I'm told. And first going down for the mail—to my joy there was the Toc H JOURNAL. Naturally when I got back to my digs I 'just looked at it,' which operation lasted all the morning. And then a fellow-padre dropped in to settle accounts of a Boy Scout camp we held two weeks ago, and stayed to grub—and I'll confess I itched to get back to that JOURNAL: I did after my friend left, and the afternoon passed quickly. Supper-time—and no visits recorded! Frightful storm all night; so retired early to bed; and, by the aid of a coal-oil lamp and flashes of lightning, finished every bit, including Charlie Thompson's advertisement on the back cover!"

And then he gives a little glimpse of his own Toc H history. "Might I say that a little bit of brass* upon my wrist-watch bears the 'T.H.' monogram and the date 'Dec. 1915.' I may

* Doubtless part of the old Toc H "identification disk" with its wristlet strap (now again revived for Service members only) which preceded the button-hole badge and the invention of the Lamp.—ED.

be recalled by a few who lived in the very first Mark I—8, Queen's Gate Place (*i.e.*, early in 1920, before the move two months later to 23, Queen's Gate Gardens) and 36, Red Lion Square, as the bloke who made beds sometimes, swept rooms, etc. ; between certain domestic duties there, and afternoon tea and fried fish suppers at No. 36, licking stamps at Effingham House (*the one-roomed first office of Toc H off the Strand*), reading the 'Challenge' (*which newspaper lived under the same roof until its demise*) and looking up odd guys for Tubby in all parts of London. I wonder where the owners of those beds are now?"—and he goes on to name some of the "old guard" from the first post-war days of Toc H. He also encloses for our inspection and safe return a few precious relics—part of the contents of "a dilapidated large envelope—letters, telegrams, cards, notices, all bearing the mark of Toc H and many the beloved Tubby's signature. They are too jolly precious to part with or risk being lost." But here before us are the typed orders for the detachment representing Toc H at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Armistice Day, 1921 : "The following will parade in the courtyard of the War Office at 10.15 :—Major-General R. S. May, C.M.G., D.S.O., Rev. Tom Pym, D.S.O. (Cambridge House, President of the Padres' Fellowship), M. Robinson, M.C. (Capt. retired, University College, Oxford), H. Moss, D.C.M., M.M. (late Sergt.-Major, Essex Regt.), A. Pettifer M.M. (late Private, The Buffs.) . . ." and so on. And then there is the little printed ticket for the "Sixth Anniversary of Toc H" (the first actual Birthday celebration) on December 15, 1921, at Grosvenor House—with a note on the back (in Stuart Sheppard's writing and with only one spelling mistake) telling Harry to report to Mus. for duty as a steward. Alongside these is a whole packet of photographs of life in Western Canada—Harry harvesting, "speaking where many listen" at the local War Memorial at Armistice time, his troop of Scouts, lads of the farm and the city ("the 'Y-Knot gang'—here is work for Mark I C, to get to know these gangs and lead them"), rough riders. They give you the feeling of a wide space and a big job.

The last paragraph of Harry Moss' letter takes you back to his article : both give the secret of his history in Toc H. "Though a fellow may not be able to work directly for Toc H," he writes, "the spirit behind it all, the spirit which placed him right here, was that Spirit which led his feet up a rickety old staircase to receive his 'Marching Orders' on Easter Day, 1916—and he is still marching on. Please remember him sometimes in Mark II Chapel, for there he last worshipped before the Double Cross in Blighty." "If any pages were needed" (wrote Tubby to Harry Moss a year ago) "to prove that Our Lord of His great kindness has deigned to use the Old House and the new Movement to draw men to Himself, your letters would surely do so."

ANOTHER CANADIAN COMPETITOR

THE only other entry for the JOURNAL competition was George H. Warey, also from Canada, living much further from the "amenities" than Harry Moss. Both will receive the prize offered. George Warey, writing on November 7 reports that "yesterday in the mail I received the Summer Double Number of the Toc H JOURNAL, the first I have seen for some years, and I would like to offer my congratulations on its excellence. As a 1915 member of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, I am of course familiar with the old Talbot House and the whole Ypres sector. . . . Although there may be readers further North than Flin Flon, I do not know of any. We are 590 miles north of Winnipeg, which is the nearest city of importance, and Flin Flon camp (of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company) is approximately 90 miles north of The Pas a small town of some 2,000 inhabitants. However, the North is literally 'God's Country' and, although I occasionally have a desire to make a trip out to Winnipeg in order to see a hal- decent show and to sleep in a real bed for a few nights (having been away from civilisation for almost a year) the development of this Northern Country has a tremendous appeal, and have no wish to return permanently to crowded streets, overcrowded stores and the other inconveniences of a modern city." (See pictures on Plate IV.)

A GLIMPSE OF SOUTH AMERICA

*As readers know, the record of Tubby's South American journey last year in these pages was compiled from such material as came to hand—a short summary of the private diary of his two companions, newspaper cuttings, etc. Tubby himself wrote no regular story of the tour, but he has just come upon the fragment which here follows. Apart from its lively opening and its general interest, it will help to make amends for a paragraph in the October JOURNAL, based on news from another source, about his visit to Mendoza.**

WHEN Mr. Pickwick woke on the morning after, he was dimly conscious of having invited an immense number of strangers of the night before to dine with him without delay. The recollection of the South American Tour, which is paramount with me at present, is akin to his; for chronic travelling across new seas, new lands and the greatest mountain range that I have ever seen, coupled with continuous welcomes and farewells, is as confusing to my memory as rum-punch was to his. Besides, my notes of travel are such that Mt. Aconcagua seems to be down as the name of a pioneer member of the League of Women Helpers, and Entre Rios as an item on a menu. My first task is to furnish some account of the journey out to Buenos Aires.

Since Cortes and Pizarro first poured their stories into the ear of Charles V at Pavia in 1528, travellers' tales from South America have lost nothing in the telling; and it is fair at the outset to remind you that Nature put the tongue and cheek of wayfaring men in very close proximity. A diet of Drake and Pizarro is as heady as a food fermented; and I abrogate here and now the crown of precision before it is denied me. Darwin's *Voyage of the Beagle* remains an unrivalled monument of accuracy in South American survey. Who am I that I should seek to wrest this title from him? Let me rather be content to suffer from what the historians of my day called "Froude's Disease"—chronic and impervious inaccuracy. I find for instance, that my notes for the voyage out bear no relation to my calmer recollections; and I can only assume them to be more than usually untrustworthy. It would seem that some spirit of the Hackluyt school stood at my elbow and controlled my pen. Such bloody doings cannot have passed without a question in the Commons. The fragment that follows is dated August 1, 1928:—

THE AUTHOR REVEALS HIS WHEREABOUTS.

"You must know that your travellers are now come, after many perils, into a country called Entre-Rios; which, in the Hildalgo's tongue, signifies the like of Mesopotamia. I could burn your ears by the narration of our getting ourselves hither, since the Friday of our farewells. Mayhap (if she be not foundered)

* "Our pilgrims were not entertained, but had to put up in a hotel," begins the offending paragraph. Writing on February 26 to Dr. Dodds of Mendoza, Tubby says: "Nothing could be more distasteful to me than that you all, who were so kind to us during our short stay in Mendoza, and the Church Committee who were our hosts, should be the victims of what must appear an unaccountable ingratitude. . . . The chief mistake is, of course, in the matter of hospitality, and I can only imagine this was based on some letter home written on the Sunday afternoon, for it was only on the Sunday night, when we were asking for our hotel bill, that you told us we were the guests of the Church Committee. In regard to the words which follow, I take it that the writers both of the diary and of the paragraph were thinking of the terrible tragedy six months previously, which so outraged the feelings of the British community in Mendoza." To Tubby's apology the Editor now unreservedly adds his own—ED.

that tight King's ship which aided us in beating off the attack of the Genoese pirates, who lay in wait for us at the Needles, hath reported the matter by now : yet this were too common a happening to spill ink thereon. Of our later mischiefs, incurred after our keel had crossed the Line, and our bow-sprit—but not our flag—dipped to the Spanish Main, Master Hackluyt will methinks concoct a queasy tale. Our Nation knows too dearly that sea-battles are not always as they seem, and that the truth on't is most loudly to be had from those who were not there. Moreover, the modesty of valour gainsays the very truth ; and Casar lost favour with the School-men, not by winning his wars, but by writing of his winnings. Not one word, therefore, will I divulge of the part I played upon the Southern Seas : that merrie bout of one to ten at Pernambuco, the harrying of the *Hispanola* at Santos, the holding of the Quarter-deck (though a-slither with the blood of the bosun) in the night onset off the Rio Grande, and the diving from the cross-trees to the courteous rescue of the Master-Mariner, when in a gale off Fernandez. 'Tis true that my grasp upon his wind-pipe was a thought impetuous, but he was now without the lanyard whereby I had rescued him off Teneriffe. When his body went over once more (this time in canvas with a round shot), I brooked no rival for the sake of the whole ship's company, but—guided by the dolphins—left the doldrums behind me and brought her gaily home to Montevideo, where I thought best to forestall troubles with the anchors by docking her on a sand bar." Here the ghost-like fingers got cramp, and let go my pen with a strong salt word.

AN IMPRESSION OF MENDOZA.

All this says nothing of a month spent in Argentina, and focused for the most part at Buenos Aires ; but the issues thereby raised must stand deferred. On August 7 we steamed out of Buenos Aires in a sumptuous private coach, and passed the next week at Alta Gracia and then resumed the road to Mendoza. Mendoza stands nigh 2,000 ft. above the prodigious plain which spells the inestimable pastoral wealth of Argentina. The monotony of the lowlands is its own salvation ; for men can no more miss hills they have never seen than men in early Warwickshire could miss the sea. Indeed the foothills first observable from Cordoba are shunned and well nigh resented as obtrusive on the landscape. A monstrous matter truly, that Nature should harbour such contrivances as hills and boulders ! Remember that this prodigious prairie of Argentina is not only flat. Its surface is entirely free from stones of any description ; so that even road metal must be imported ; and so strange are the comparisons of cost, that it is still cheaper to bring granite sets from Norway than to quarry and carry them down from the Andes. So the Old World is now called in to redress the pavements of the New ; and Republican Buenos Aires rides to and fro in tram-cars provided by the Kingdom of Belgium, on paving sets from the Kingdom of Norway, or in rolling-stock sent out by our own much limited Monarchy.

The laws of supply and demand are obdurate in the long run, and the ports once closed by Spain against all rivals now see all other flags but hers ; Mrs. Partington and her mop undertook a far more Rational Resistance. As for the

British, they have been driven into the sea so often, that they have become by now identified with that element, and bob up out of it on every shore.

Mendoza, then, stands high above the great plains, but prone before the foothills of the Andes. Prone is at times only too true a word, for earth-shocks are sometimes so severe as to shake the town about the ears of its inhabitants. Indeed, from this point onwards, earthquakes become an ill-omened subject of conversation. In whole great tracts of Chile and Peru, rain is by far the rarer phenomenon. In some places, there has been literally no rain within the memory of man; and the last rain-storm at Lima (March 17, 1925) is said to have cost Peru some twenty million pounds sterling, by washing the guano from the islands, and the nitrate, wool and sugar from their customary storage under the open sky. At Mendoza rain is known, but not relied on. The great vineyards, now becoming famed throughout the world of vine-culture, are watered by the Andes streams. Needless to say, Mendoza is rich, and much resorted to; nor is it lacking on the darker side. The suicides consequent upon its lavish Casino keep pace with the shootings in its streets. A few months earlier a young Englishman, who had just come fresh to the staff of a Bank there, was shot dead during an election, deliberately and without provocation, by three supernumerary policemen. It was only by much pressure that the chief murderer was tried at all. He received a term of imprisonment of which he will not serve more than a short quota. There is no capital punishment in Argentina. They are loth (as some wit once said) to "test the immortality" of their worst criminals.

Left this leave too dark a sketch of Mendoza, let it at once be added that the streets are broad and well-built, the public parks most generous, and the monument of San Martin and his army of the Andes unforgettably magnificent. The British opened their doors to us, and some of the men their minds.

We put forth on the trans-Andes train, or rather on the first of them, early on Monday morning.

Written at Valparaiso, August 15, 1928.

TUBBY.

* * * * *

The paragraph concerning Mendoza in the October JOURNAL ended: "Members at home, whose lot is by comparison immeasurably easier, will do well to think often of their Mendoza brethren." And Tubby, in the course of a sermon preached in All Hallows' on his return, said:—"In two ways I hope this talk may help. First I am to deal with fundamentals—the great main fact of God, reverberating not through the niceties of modern worship, but from almost illimitable seas, and the greatest mountain range in all the world. I am to take you in imagination far from your accustomed surroundings, the thronged and well-swept pavements, the tranquil law and order of this little land, out to countries the analogy for which I do not know in all my travelling, to proud cities overflowing with art and commerce, yet evil and lawless beyond all previous experience, to peoples, among whom our own are only a small and detached minority, and otherwise composed of a fusion still incomplete of many Latin and some native races—to problems, crude, elemental, horrible in their intensity, before which the Church of the country has failed and failed again. Secondly, it is my hope—indeed my only reason for saying these things here—that you will be turning all the time these facts into prayer, here in the presence of the Divine Master."

"CRIME'S RECRUITS OR . . . ?"

Without permission but with gratitude we reprint below the leading article from the Malay Mail of June 14, 1928, which reached us some months ago. It deals with a very valuable and difficult corporate job to which the Kuala Lumpur Wing of the Malayan Branch has set its hand, together with the local Y.M.C.A. and Scouts. [It is a true Toc H job—and the case for it is stated by Alec Paterson (H.M. Commissioner of Prisons; late Chairman, now a member of Toc H Central Executive) as quoted in the article.

MALAYA is a charming country, peopled by what must actually be one of the most happy and contented communities in the world. Policed with remarkable though quiet efficiency, the streets of our towns as well as the highways and byways are as safe as, or safer than, Piccadilly, and unless one is an ardent student of the police-court news and human nature itself, one might almost believe the robber, the thief, and the murderer to be non-existent. Yet, actually, the crime ratio in these States and in the Colony is amongst the highest in the world, while, as is mentioned in the Chief Secretary's annual report, there was in Selangor and Perak last year a very serious increase in the incidence of murder. In the Settlements, what criminologists term "the proportion of cognisable crime to population" is one offence to 129 persons. In the F.M.S. we have one offence to 167 inhabitants, while in Bengal, Ceylon and Madras the ratio is one to 628, 685 and 935 respectively. At first sight, these figures seem to cast a very black shadow indeed on Malaya, but if we explore them further we find that 70 per cent. of the total cognisable crime is committed by a community which numbers one-half of the population—the Chinese. Again, half of the Chinese are not permanently resident, and 70 per cent. of the total crime for which the race is responsible is committed by this floating section. But even though we can throw so much of the discredit of what really does constitute an unenviable record on criminals who just come and go like the plague or the smallpox, there still remains a sufficiently large proportion of what may be regarded as indigenous wrongdoers whose punishment or, if possible, reclamation presents a problem not easily solved. In this matter, as in many other essentially human affairs, prevention is infinitely preferable to the most perfect cure, and while the latter can only be effected by a combination of intense effort with rare good fortune, the apprentice to crime can usually be persuaded to embrace other ways fairly easily although, of course, he must be caught young. Writing in the *Empire Police Journal* recently, Mr. Alexander Paterson, who ought to know his subject, maintained that "every lad born into the world is, apart from other possibilities, both a potential policeman and a potential criminal. The choice should be with him; but he is swayed strongly in one direction or another by forces outside his control, and sometimes the dice are loaded heavily against him in the game of life. The man who complains at the end of a life in prison that he never had a chance is often the man who in this way never had a fair choice. . . . Whether the good that is in each will be developed, and the evil that is in each will be thereby eliminated, or transformed, must depend largely on the environment in which the adolescent years are spent. A leader and a bunch of comrades are the vital features of the right environment."

The truth of these contentions is obvious, and it is equally clear that they apply just as definitely in Malaya as in Europe. Similarly, the remedies against the effects of evil environment which are being used with such success in England and, for that matter, in Ceylon, ought to prove almost equally efficacious here. Everywhere we are confronted with the same problem—that of the homeless youngster. In this city there are many such, who live by their wits to the extent of earning a few cents a day, all of which is spent on food, with no balance for clothes or shelter. To quote Mr. Paterson again, "Frequently they are in the hands of the police, in the first instance for sleeping on a verandah, and subsequently for being too wide awake on the same verandah." Six years ago, the police of Colombo started a residential club-hostel for this type of boy. There the "street arabs" spend their evenings at educational classes, learning to read and write, as well as to box and run and kick a football. There, too, they can sleep in decency upstairs, under the supervision of a police inspector. They find a home and a school, where they can win a sense of self-respect and learn the rules of the great game which is life. Instead of appearing frequently in the dock they are constantly in the boxing ring. Work is obtained for them, and they are expected to pay a fair proportion of their wages towards the cost of their board and lodging. The barest handful of the Colombo club members has made any appearance before the Magistrates since the institution was opened. The experiment, in short, has proved an unqualified success.

Why should we not be equally fortunate in Kuala Lumpur, provided we adopt similarly sound methods? The local Wing of Toc H, and a number of their friends, are confident that, despite the greater variety of race among the potential members of their Street Boys' Club, their efforts will be attended with success. Subscriptions and a portion of the material necessary for the construction of the building itself have already been received, and the efforts of a high Government official have resulted in a suitable plot of ground being leased at a purely nominal figure. Within a few months, it is hoped, the club will be in full swing. Meanwhile contributions towards the cost of the club-house would, we have reason to believe, be welcomed by the treasurer of Toc H. About \$2,000 is still required, and it would be strange if, amid so many enthusiastic clubmen as can be found in Selangor, the efforts should fail through lack of funds. It is difficult to imagine any way in which five, ten or even fifty dollars could be better spent.

"The Good Thing Thus Begun"

Now comes the sequel. The June number of the *Little Journal* of Toc H Malaya noted that "construction work has commenced on the Street Boys' Club building on Bungsar Road. The first sod was turned by a lanky Tamil coolie, and the ground was blessed thereafter with a copious shower of rain which indicated which way the drains ought to run."

And the December number (Vol. I, No. 12—congratulations on the first year's course of a "notable contemporary"!) of the *Little Journal* shows the Club established and in action:—

"The Boys' Welfare Committee, on which Toc H is represented, gave a Christmas party for the members of the Club, their friends and neighbours on January 5. There were present about two hundred children of all ages, sizes and complexions. Games, grub, toys, a cinema show, and shelter from spasmodic showers were offered, and judging by the noise which prevailed

throughout the proceedings, they all had a jolly good time. There was an abundance and variety of food and although there was a noticeable diffidence about accepting the first issue, a certain Toc H helper, well known for his voracity, was able to alarm the guests into immediate eager and effective action. With true Oriental frugality, some of the children laid in extra stores for the rainy day and one small girl, having no pockets and many more buns and cakes than she could conveniently carry in her hands, and having also an eye on some fruit and dish of ice-cream, solved her problem by removing her five-cents worth of 'clothes' and wrapping her possessions therein. The ecstatic shudders of those who were getting outside their first taste of ice-cream caused a good deal of quiet amusement among the spectators, while the mysteries of several mechanical toys which failed to withstand the eager clutches of their new owners, caused many anxious moments among children and repair staff alike. One helper committed the blunder of giving back a mended toy to the wrong boy, and had a near riot on his hands at once; considerable tact and not a few apples were required before the situation was brought under control.

"It was certainly a heartening sight for those who are actively engaged in putting across the Street Boys' Club idea to see such an abundance of helpers and they are no less grateful for the amount of essential material of all sorts which was donated by many friends.* In service, the ladies really carried the heat and burden of the day so that there was nothing for the men to do but such heavy lifting as was required, supervise games for the older boys, and admire the smoothness and charm with which the ladies conducted the affair.

"There seems now to be no doubt that the Club can claim a definite place in the community life and that it does and will continue to enjoy a large measure of sympathy and support from many different quarters. The general public have given every indication of this by their donations, in both money and materials, towards both the Club itself and towards this party, and the Committee are confident that the venture is going to be given every chance of making good.

"From the other point of view, the results achieved to date do not do any more than indicate that the idea is workable if it is pursued with energy, and as there is as yet no sign of wavering in this, either in the mental or physical varieties, the outlook is encouraging. The membership has remained small, and this fact constitutes the Committee's chief worry; but the latest increase has been brought about by the members themselves and is, perhaps, the healthiest sign yet observed. Of the six resident members, five are steadily employed, and steps are being taken to provide a savings bank account for each boy's surplus earnings. Those who work must pay for half their keep—naturally their salaries are small—and for such clothes as they require. Discipline is somewhat slack, but the means of remedying this appear to lie in the lap of further experience. The Selangor Rovers' educational scheme has commenced, but is still much too young to be reported.

"Taken full and byc, there appear to be no serious deficiencies and the Club may look forward, with as much certainty as life in the East offers good works, to a useful and constructive career."

THE OTHER HALF

SOME of us are beginning to think that it is the better half too. If one turns over a batch of Toc H press cuttings one is immediately aware of the wide diversity of jobs by means of which the Family is developing its practical life. What one is not so sure about is the equal growth of that inner life which makes Toc H different from any other Society. We are multiplying the cords which

* A letter of appeal in the *Malay Mail* in June already recorded: "Materials promised—110 flat asbestos sheets and 20 barrels of cement. Further materials required include meranti planks and scantlings, chengha square timber, window and door bolts."

bind us to those who need our help; are we at the same time strengthening the fibres of which those cords are made? Are we in fact as a Family striving to "work for His Kingdom in the wills of men"? The ideal which we have set before ourselves is rightly of the highest order, and we shall not even approximate to it if, in our feverish anxiety to do jobs, we neglect the strengthening of our own wills by a course of fearless thinking along what some of us will find quite dangerous channels, challenging the whole standard of our activities. If we really want the Kingdom to come—and we pray for that every day when we say the Lord's Prayer—we ought to begin by thinking out what that implies. Is it not true to say that most of us still approach all our problems with preconceived ideas which fetter the free working of the spirit of Christ on our minds? It is the old problem in a new form; the barrier of self is set across our path, and until that is beaten down our progress is negligible. So T. E. Brown warns us :—

"If thou couldst empty all thyself of self
Like to a shell dishabited,
Then might He find thee on the Ocean shelf,
And say—'This is not dead'—
And fill thee with Himself instead.

But thou art all replete with very thou,
And hast such shrewd activity,
That when He comes, He says :—'This is enow
Unto itself—'Twere better let it be :
It is so small and full, there is no room for Me.' "

There seems to be some need of more corporate effort to work out our own salvation. We have got to create a new atmosphere, and we can only achieve that if we are fearlessly examining new paths for ourselves. It is a really hard job to work for some standard different from that which prevails in our ordinary circle, and yet we are pledged to achieve this. The Kingdom of God with its new values will not arrive unless we pioneer for its arrival.

A challenge was thrown down this month in Liverpool to the students of 37 nations there assembled to "love the Lord thy God with all thy mind." It would perhaps be fitting for Toc H to accept the same challenge, and by the end of 1929 some Branches and Groups might find their outlook vastly different. These, then, are musings of a very humble member on the life of the Family. But let us end with two practical suggestions. Will those members who see wisdom in the foregoing set aside five minutes daily to meditation on the implications of that clause in the Lord's Prayer—"Thy Kingdom come"? Our thoughts would naturally run in two directions :—(a) What is there in my life which is a hindrance to its coming? (b) What active steps can be taken to hasten its advent? And secondly, shall we all make a more widespread use of the study circle system for raising the spiritual tone of our individual units in the Family?

A. A. T.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM PAT LEONARD

Pat Leonard writes from the United States to Manchester Toc H as follows :—

Room 756, 25, Broadway, New York.

2nd February, 1929.

MY DEARS,—I certainly haven't overburdened you with news of my doings in the land of the Pilgrim Fathers, but chiefly because the descendants of the said Pilgrims have developed a type of hustle which I feel confident was absent from the voyages of the *Mayflower*. Last week, for example, I had fourteen meetings in Philadelphia, with sixteen crowded into the week before in Baltimore. About ten of those meetings were Lantern Lectures, with my old box of tricks, and my very much cracked slides—the others were talks at Luncheon Clubs, visits to schools, and Drawing Room Meetings, to enlist the Dollar Princesses on our side—with three Toc H Guest-nights thrown in to add variety. Everything moves fast in America, including the time. The days are racing past me, already I've been here three full months, and I'm half-way through my sojourn among these charming cousins of ours; for, as you know, I am planning to visit Newfoundland on my way home, which entails leaving the States in the middle of May, if I am to be home in time to get ready for my part in the Scout Jamboree.*

Pryor Grant and I have been wrestling over the problem of Toc H in New York. Elsewhere the sun is shining upon our building operations. Here things don't go too well. It's an uphill fight, and Pryor is a hero to have struggled so long and so gallantly with the baffling elusiveness and noisy indifference of New York. After endless trouble, he managed to get hold of some ideal property near the docks for his ship boys' club. Lawyers supervised the sale, we incorporated the Committee to run the Club, and paid our deposit—a matter of £500, when a search of the title deeds revealed the fact that the land was unmarketable, and we had to call the deal off. It appeared that the original grant of the land to some forgotten worthy was conditional on his maintaining a wharf on it. Since the sea has receded, and the plot of land is a couple of hundred yards from it, the maintenance of a wharf is a physical impossibility, but none the less the land is liable to seizure for non-compliance. Anyway, we are back where we started, minus the £500 which we hope to recover, but which will entail a lot of legal formality.

All this week, I have been preaching the mid-day Sermons in Trinity Church, *the* City Church of New York, fabulously wealthy, and standing in the heart of Broadway and Wall Street. A fair sprinkling of financial magnates and their underlings came in each day, but I doubt if I succeeded in striking a very effective blow for God or even for His show—Toc H. They seemed preoccupied, and were either hatching financial plots and plans, or more likely merely waiting for me to finish, so that they might enjoy the organ that succeeded me. I'm inclined to support the latter view myself, owing to the general inrush from the street the moment my surplice was seen retiring to the vestry. It certainly keeps a fellow humble to see his congregation double the minute he stops talking!

One day we had a diversion when Captain Fried and the crew of the S.S. *America* landed. You probably read accounts of the very fine rescue of an Italian freighter they pulled off in a terrific storm. As the heroes of the hour, they were given a civic reception, which consists in New York of riding up Broadway in a procession of cars, with an escort of police mounted on horses and on motor cycles, while from every window of every floor of every flanking skyscraper the hero-worshippers empty their waste-paper baskets on the heads of the unfortunate heroes. To supplement the ordinary waste paper, telephone directories are torn up, and tap-machines rifled until the ground and the air is so thick with fluttering paper that it looks like snow storm. Quite the quaintest way I have seen of applauding a hero, but there it is.

* Pat, as announced in the December JOURNAL, has been appointed Chaplain General (C. of E.) for the Boy Scout World Jamboree, to be held at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, in July and August this year.

must, however, confess that Captain Fried seemed extraordinarily unhappy about the whole proceeding, as did the street scavengers whom I saw later in the day coping with the mess.

Bob Collis, whom some of you remember as an Irish Rugger International, and as a foundation member of Toc H in London, passed through yesterday on his way home after eighteen months' work in the John Hopkin's Hospital in Baltimore, where he's been busy building a very fine Group of Toc H. He and Pryor and I had our evening meal together, and talked shop as only enthusiasts can, until we had to part to go our several ways.

Well, well, my dears—this is enough small beer from a land that is reputed "dry." My affectionate blessings on you all. Remember in your prayers the Family here, "the Groups that gain hard ground by inches, that plan and pray, and barely hold their course among the shallows of the shore; and, as yet, take no token of their toil." That's us. PAT.

TALBOT HOUSE, 42, TRINITY SQUARE, 1929—?

In the February JOURNAL the bare announcement was made of a very fine gift to Tubby, with a promise of further details this month. These now follow in Tubby's own words.

IN December, 1928, the All Hallows' Toc H Trust (*the formation of which was recorded in the November JOURNAL*) received tidings of a gift of the first importance. Mr. Limmer was empowered by an anonymous donor to purchase the Freehold of No. 42, Trinity Square, the last old-fashioned house remaining of the Square as it once was. It stands on the eastern side of the Square, next to Joseph Barber's Warehouse and Wine Vaults, and flanked on the south side by a series of great office buildings which are the property of the City Real Property Corporation. Immediately opposite to it, across Cooper's Row, is the eastern flank of the Trinity House, with the huge Headquarters of the Port of London Authority beyond. The House has a delightful old-fashioned character, and preserves both its iron work, its staircase and its plaster mouldings from the period of its building in about 1780. It fronts the quietest corner of the square, and is, we hope, permanently immune from traffic problems. The southern portion of the frontage, apart from the entrance to the House itself, is an old-fashioned archway with appropriate doors; this leads past the Counting House to a very large warehouse with a timbered roof, the furthest wall of which is none other than the mediæval super-structure to the Roman Town Wall itself. This great Warehouse or Garage is in a somewhat dilapidated condition, and during 1929, only the Garage and the Counting House, and the considerable cellars beneath the building are available for our use. The House itself is tenanted by a series of firms, who own for the most part one floor each and hold them upon short leases. The first lease expires at the end of this year, and the last, even if maintained until its complete expiration, extends only until 1932. From that point onwards, therefore, if not at an earlier date, the whole premises, House and Garage, will be completely in our hands.

We have immediate possession of the Counting House and Garage only, together with the cellars beneath them. Only the removal of a few fixtures from the Counting House, and partitions from the Garage, together with the construction of the Kitchen behind the Counting House, are necessary at present. The cost involved is small, and is already covered. By the beginning of March the Counting House will be an enlarged Lunch Club, and the Garage a Gymnasium and Drill Hall, available at mid-day for Debates and Conferences and indoor recreation, and at night for Scouts, Guides, and work among the troops quartered in the Tower, and other long desired experiments. Kenneth Mathews is to be in main charge of this, gathering his helpers from a wide field. Mus and Mrs. Mus are undertaking the re-organisation of the Lunch Club when thus transferred and extended, and Professor Sorabji is providing the programme

each Monday and Thursday. Colonel Campbell and others are being called in to advise concerning the Gymnasium and Boxing. All offers of help, and applications for the use of the premises should be made to Kenneth Mathews direct.

The House as it stands should, in my view, be reserved by the Trustees as the College House quarters. This does not necessarily mean that it will all be required for parsonical purposes, still less that it should become a semi-private Clergy House. My own hope is that it may slowly come to fulfil towards the Movement as a whole many of the same purposes which the original Talbot House fulfilled towards the Salient. The lower floors would thus embrace a Library, a Board Room, and a number of rooms definitely allocated to, and associated with, our Overseas areas. On the uppermost floor, and possibly on a further floor to be added, there will be Chaplain's quarters, available both for the resident and returning Padres. . . . (*Tubby then goes on to discuss further projects, and continues*).

It is surely important that the local needs should not be forgotten or gainsaid, by any misappropriation of the ground floor and basement. We shall do well to regard this lowest space as dedicated to good healthy work of many kinds among the many minds and bodies of the workers and night population in the Tower Hill area. The experiment, even as I have outlined it, is one of real importance to the well-being of this quarter of the City. Many will watch it hopefully, and many most critically, but if it succeeds it will be on all counts worth while. . . . It only remains that we should one and all join in giving true thanks to God for this wonderful token of His goodness and love, and resolve to build this great Talbot House together to His true service.

P. B. C.

MIGRATION

THE work of the Migration Department at H.Q. is going on steadily. The names of each party of migrants as supplied to us by the Ministry of Labour are circulated to Jobmasters in the area of the men's homes; they are then visited by individual members and thus a contact is made. If time permits, a visit to a Guest-night is arranged. Each party is further seen off at the port of embarkation. If Australia is the destination, Toc H Colombo boards the vessel at that port and gives a cheery word to the travellers *en route*. As the final destination is unknown on this side, it is left to Toc H Australia or Canada to follow up the migrant once his location is known and invite him into the family on the usual probation terms. The Migration Secretary would be very glad if reports of interviews with migrants could be furnished more regularly as soon after the contact has been made as possible. If the report calls for any special action this can be taken by writing direct to the Migration Secretaries abroad, and thus very often helpful advice has been furnished and special arrangements made before the arrival of the migrant in his new home. The percentage of interview slips sent out from H.Q. which do not return is rather too high. We are not suggesting that the visits are not paid, but we want the scheme completed and to know as much as possible of those commended to our care.

Now an additional job is being set on foot. This is for General Members who have no special job in Toc H. We desire to strengthen the tie between those at home and those overseas. Will any general member who is willing to write once a month to a migrant and keep him in touch with home affairs send in his name and address to the Assistant General Secretary at H.Q. on a post-card, and he will be furnished in due course with the name and address of a recent migrant who is not in touch by reason of his place of employment with any overseas Branch or Group of Toc H. A Register will be kept at H.Q. of these links and a reminder sent periodically of the obligation to carry out this job. Those who write are asked to encourage their correspondents to reply to them, and in this way it is conceivable that some very useful "big brother" work may be accomplished.

WELCOME HOME TO THE OVERSEAS MEMBER

AS Toc H grows world-wide, the value and the necessity of the scattered parts of the Family getting into touch, and constantly keeping in touch, becomes more and more clear. Practically every overseas visitor finds himself at some time in London, and the London Marks have long been alive to their special responsibility for the welcome of "our farthest kindred." Mark I have written to all Secretaries, Registrars, etc., in *Canada* and *South America*; Mark II, as the meeting-place of the African Circle, are in touch with *Africa*; Mark III have been asked to keep in touch with *Australia* and *New Zealand*; Mark VII have a working arrangement for a link with *India* through the H.Q. Eastern Correspondent; The Brothers' House have links with the *United States*.

The objects are: (i) To ensure that no overseas member visiting or coming to the Mother Country and touching London shall lack a homing-centre, where he will be looked for and welcomed, where he will find his own home news and his friends, known to him at least by correspondence, where he can be put up or helped to find "digs," if he has a family with him, where he can be put in touch with any part of the Family in and outside London, and where he can help to forge a closer link between home and overseas.

(ii) To assist the work of any Overseas Correspondents at home, who have the task of advising, commending and keeping in touch with fellows who are outwards bound.

(iii) To keep the home-birds constantly conscious of "our farthest kindred in Toc H," and to keep the home-base active in supplying reinforcement of all kinds.

To quote from Mark I's letter to Canadian and South American units:—

"The following are suggestions for forming and maintaining lines of communication:

(i) You would inform your members that they are to look on Mark I as their Toc H point of contact in England.

(ii) In the case of anyone coming over here, you would write and inform me of the date of arrival, destination, and so on. We can then take immediate steps to deal with him (or her); such steps, of course, would depend upon the particular case, and might be classified as follows:—

(a) *Members, etc., coming to live in London*:—We might assist in finding 'digs,' or, if desired, we'd make every effort to put men up in the House. This might not be possible straight away, as we're always full up, but every effort would be made to find a vacancy.

(b) *Members, etc., coming to live in England, outside London*:—We would do what we could personally and put them in touch with the nearest Toc H, who would also do what is in their power.

(c) *Members, etc., visiting England*:—We could arrange to put them up during their stay, if required, invite them to Guest-nights, and generally make ourselves useful.

In all cases, we could do any necessary communication with Headquarters, and could, doubtless, render a number of other services; anything which lies within our power would be readily undertaken. If you will, therefore, let me know of anyone coming to (or already in) the U.K., we can get into touch with them. It might also be a good idea for members of our respective units to communicate with each other, to their mutual benefit.

The point of all this is that by centralising our organisation we shall save a lot of overlapping and waste of time; and, further (a point not to be overlooked) we shall take a lot of work from the shoulders of an already overburdened Headquarters staff. It would, I think, facilitate the scheme if you will inform me officially of any people whom you so commit to our hospitality. This will help us in getting in touch with them, and will also help to prevent a certain amount of exploitation of Toc H which goes on.

I enclose our Guest-night Card for the current Spring and should like to hear your ideas on this important part of our work. Any suggestions as to how we may work it will be welcomed. Greetings to you and your Branch (or Group), etc.

H. W., Secretary."

A NOTE ON TOC H IN WALES

I FOUND Toc H in Wales tremendously impressed by the response which had been made to their appeals to their brethren in other Branches for help with clothes, boots and money. The figures given me by Bob Lewis in Cardiff were that some 18,000 gifts, mainly boots and clothes, had reached them for distribution. Toc H Battersea, which cannot be well off, had alone supplied seventy parcels and £10 in cash. Some of the poorest Branches in the East End, and some actually in the Durham area, had sent a number of sackloads, and the contribution of boots and shoes from the Leicestershire area had been magnificent. All this has been done so quietly that I did not myself know anything of it until I caught sight of a great pile of sacks newly arrived behind the door in the Cardiff headquarters. I will not speak of its effect on the recipients; but in one place a policeman on duty, seeing a member staggering along under the weight of two sacks, stopped him, said: "You look busy," and gave him 2s. out of his pocket to add as his anonymous contribution.

The Groups meanwhile in the distressed areas are carrying on with a wonderful spirit. Maesteg has refused to go under, though its membership is mostly unable to afford food for meetings. Another Group I discovered was cheerfully meeting its rent with a box and envelopes bearing the words: "Put your envelopes in and keep the brokers out."

Another interesting side-light was reported at Barry, where a member going on board a ship on behalf of the Missions to Seamen was met by a question from a sailor, who came away from slinging lumps of stick-jaw at the cook, as to the Lamp disc in his button-hole. Before he could start to explain Toc H, two German seamen among the crew came up and told the enquirer the story of Toc H sympathetically and accurately.

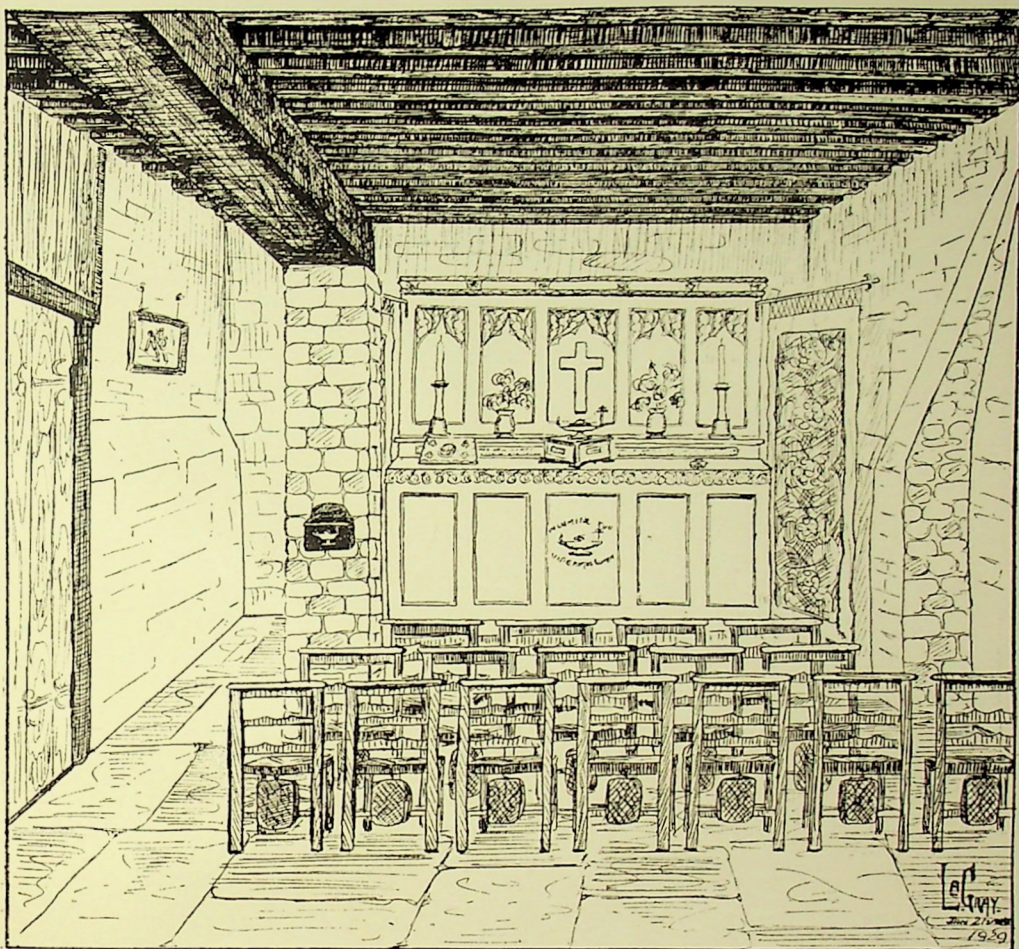
TUBBY.

THE EX-SERVICE FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

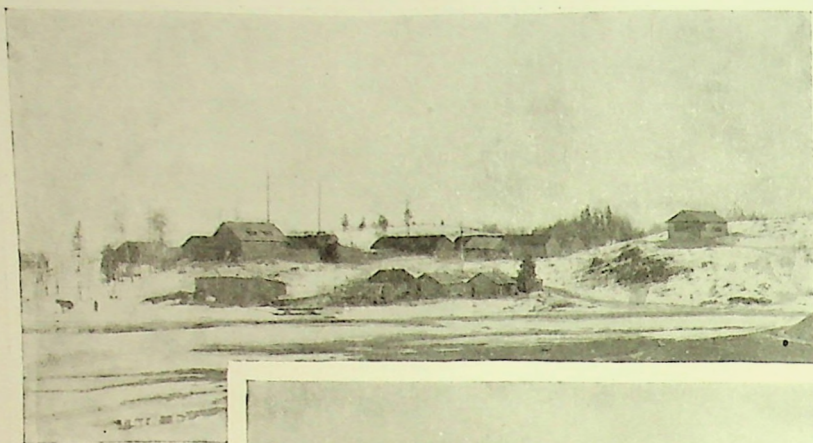
THIS Association (see October JOURNAL, p. 387) has been quietly working and gathering strength at the same time. Commander H. E. Rowley, R.N., has gone to devote himself to other spheres of usefulness. The Association owes its birth to him and a considerable portion of its success to the tremendous amount of spade work, which he put into it in its earliest days. His place as Secretary has been filled by Major C. Stamer-Simpson (Golders Green Group).

We are now most anxious to extend and expand our work amongst Ex-Service Men, their Widows and Dependents, and, therefore, would most heartily welcome the co-operation of Toc H members up and down the country. If one ex-Service member in each Grope, Group or Branch would become the E.S.F.A. representative and write to us, we would heartily welcome him; Major A. R. T. Haverfield, M.C., our Appeals Director, will be only too delighted to outline our scheme to him. Since January, 1928, we have enrolled on our Register 890 applicants, of whom about 10 per cent. proved to be scroungers or not work-seekers and were struck off. We have secured temporary or permanent jobs to the number of 213, and have conferred benefits of various descriptions to the number of 245. Our main object is to obtain work for the men on our Register, but our efforts do not end there, for we assist them in any other way possible. We obtain copies of lost Army papers; assist with advice on pension questions; try and obtain grants in certain cases from the Societies who specialise in the cases under consideration; obtain medals for men who have never received them; get in touch with prospective employers. Men bring their home and matrimonial difficulties and we try to help them. No place is too small and no place is too big, but you will find a Service man there in difficulties. These men do not want charity, they want just human sympathy and this is where Toc H men can come in and help.

E. S. F. A.



CARDIFF BRANCH CHAPEL
 From a drawing by a Branch member



Top, left : Flin Flon in winter ; Right : A typical prospector.

Centre, left : George Wacey himself ; Right : Tin Can Narrows, Lake Athapapuskon, near Flin Flon.

Bottom, left : Flin Flon Mine and Lake ; Right : Landing a sturgeon at Flin Flon, 1928.

(See "Another Canadian Competitor," page 92.)



Above : FIRST FIFTEEN. Standing : A. T. Cooper (Mark I), H. K. Hill (Mark VII), G. A. Cottrell (Mark VII), A. J. Rhodes (Barnet), G. F. Gowland (Enfield), J. C. Tutte (Barnet), R. S. Patterson (Enfield). Sitting : D. R. Batchelar (Mark II), H. McKee (Mark I), D. H. B. Arber (Vice Capt., Enfield), H. L. A. Green (Capt., Ealing), John Mullet (Team Sec., Mark I), J. D. A. Woolroffe (Kennington), T. B. Beech (Secretary, Barnet). On ground : N. A. Whitshead (Kennington), C. L. Forbes (Highgate).

Below : "A" FIFTEEN. Standing : G. D. O. Castle (Mark I), G. E. Smith (Tower Hill), B. Tilley (Mark VII), J. E. Kelly (Barnet), F. N. Hall (Ealing), J. E. Bridger (Mark I). Sitting : E. T. Gadd (Mark I), K. W. Evetts (Mark II), L. R. Tamplin (Vice Capt., Mark VII), G. Batchelar (Capt., Mark II), B. E. Crane (Enfield), H. J. Hill (Islington), L. Terry (Mark VII). On ground : S. C. Lee (Tower Hill), E. E. Grose (Mark I). (Photographs by Elliott and Fry).



LADYSMITH MEMBERS MAKING THE PLAYGROUND

Above : Members testing the horizontal bars ; in the foreground, to left, the Maypole for the "Giant Stride."

Below : Some of the team cutting and drilling a bar.

MAKING A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

IN the South African news in the August JOURNAL last year Harry Ellison reported "a really magnificent Toc H job which the Ladysmith Group have just put through." To quote from the report: "The job was the laying out and equipping of a Children's Playground for the town. The Group, working in all available spare time, made and fitted up three big swings (15 feet high), three smaller ones, four see-saws, two climbing ropes and rope ladder (15 feet) trapeze and bar, horizontal bars, a sand pit (25 ft. by 15 ft.), and six 10-foot seats, and hope later to add a merry-go-round, etc. They are collecting funds for the upkeep of the ground. Nine-hundred children, with their parents, attended the opening on April 14. The Mayor of Ladysmith, in opening the ground, said, 'It needs no stretch of imagination to gauge the magnitude of the task which Toc H set themselves. They have loyally stuck to the job, and now have the satisfaction of seeing the completed article, for which they deserve every credit. The workmanship is of a high order, and I have no hesitation in saying that the apparatus will be as safe as a house. . . . When the matter of the Playground came before the Council some time ago, we unanimously agreed to set aside this spot as a Playground in accordance with the express wish of the Toc H members who interviewed the Council, and I do not think I am giving any secrets away when I say that the one thing which pleased the Council most was that no funds were asked for with which to carry through the project.'"

We have now received some specifications of the apparatus and several snapshots of the work in progress, and give them herewith for the guidance of any other Toc H units who may be moved to undertake a rather ambitious but admirable corporate job of the same kind.

1. Every cross-bar used rests on a *tripod* structure, which is made of old disused railway engine boiler tubes. These tubes, each about 20 feet long, were purchased from the railway authorities at about 6s. 6d. each.

2. The *cross-bars* from which the swings, etc., are hung, are made of 4 in. cast-iron pipes (but heavy galvanised piping would have been preferable). The cross-bars for parallel and horizontal bars are of 1½ in. galvanised piping.

3. The *uprights* for parallel bars, horizontal bars, see-saws and seating supports, are also of boiler tubing. In the case of the see-saws and seats, the tubes are bent U-shape reversed.

4. The tripod and upright supports are all sunk in the ground and a collar of *concrete*, 3 ft. by 3 ft. by 3 ft., was worked round them. The concrete was mixed on the basis of 3-2-1.

5. The "*Giant Stride*" (Maypole) is a 9 in. steel pipe, reinforced with a filling of steel rods and a strong mixture of concrete. It is set in a concrete foundation, 3 ft. by 3 ft., and nearly 4 ft. deep. The head-piece at the top consists of the hub of a motor car, with a spindle, 3 ft long, of silver steel, with several revolving collars of ½ in. steel for the ropes, made to fit the pipe and cemented on the whole length of the 3 ft. spindle.

6. The *timbers* for the see-saws are of Oregon pine, 18 ft. by 9 in. and 2 in. thick, well oiled and seasoned. (On the opening day at Ladysmith, no less than fourteen "large-sized kiddies" were seen at a time on one see-saw; the plank, of course, bent, but showed no signs of breaking.) The timber for the seats is common deal, 10 ft. by 9 in., and 2 in. thick.

7. The total *cost* of construction, at Ladysmith, including the fencing of the Playground, was just under £40. (Refreshments at the opening cost about £20, but part was recoverable.)

8. The cost of the *sand enclosure* was estimated at £10.

The writer adds: "Further details of fittings for the swings, trapeze bars, etc., are matters that each individual would deal with according to the material at hand. I know that if I had the job to do all over again, there would be very many differences. . . . Our greatest trouble has been with the top links of the swings; these have to be watched for wear, but we have at last thought out a scheme to overcome the difficulty."

IN MEMORIAM

Sir Sydney Byass, Bt. : Chairman, Toc H, Wales

ON Monday, February 18, at Llandough Castle, Glamorgan, there passed over Sydney Hutchinson Byass, a great Christian gentleman and true friend of Toc H. From the day when, as the result of a hurried telephone conversation he gave lunch to Ronnie Grant in his beautiful Welsh home and learned the story of Toc H, until a few days before his death he wrote from the sick room to Peter Monie, he gave of his best to the cause of Toc H in Wales. From his earliest days in the Principality, as partner in the big tinplate works at Port Talbot, which bore his name, he was an outstanding character in the public, social and church work of South Wales. Three times Mayor and first Freeman of Port Talbot, twice Conservative candidate, Deputy Lieutenant and Sheriff of his County, member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, Chairman of the Glamorgan County Council and County Cricket Club and many other public appointments filled his life; yet no good cause ever asked for his support in vain. Toc H at once attracted him, and he became the first Chairman and Treasurer of the South Wales Executive. He quickly endeared himself to all in the Family; no one who met him could fail from the first to regard him, not only with admiration, but with real affection. The great garden party which Lady Byass and he gave to all Toc H and L.W.H. members in South Wales last summer will live long in the memories of those fortunate enough to be there. No man, high or low, of whatever political party, had anything but praise of Sydney Byass: he was truly without enemies, greatly loved and now greatly mourned. He is succeeded in the baronetcy by his son, Major Geoffrey Byass, the present Hon. Treasurer of Toc H, South Wales. To him and to Lady Byass the sympathy and affection of the Toc H Family goes forth.

Guy Beaumont Ewing : West Kent Branch

Guy Ewing, who passed over on February 18, was a faithful servant of his country and an invaluable member of Toc H there. Born in 1863, he was educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Oxford, where he made many friends and played cricket for the Oxford Authentics and the Band of Brothers. Settling in Kent as a land surveyor, he became head of the firm which bore his name. He was over age when war broke out, but joined the Sportsman's Battalion, and later served in France as an officer. "Ewing," says the *Times*, "was a man whose debonair and lighthearted manner concealed an extraordinary degree of unselfishness and a strong sense of duty to his fellows, and especially his county. In spite of the handicap of bad health in recent years, he found in local administration a wide field for public service. In 1922 he was elected a County Councillor for Kent, and a County Alderman last year. He was chairman of the Parliamentary and Public Health Committees of the council, which he represented on the executive of the County Councils Association, and he was also a member of the local board of guardians and rural district council. But of most general interest was his work as chairman and founder of the Kent Rural Community Council, the organisation which started the Kent County Playing Fields Association." It was in connection with the Rural Community Council that his great service to Toc H was done. He kept the West Kent (Countrymen's) Branch in active touch with the work of the Council, and he gave a fine address to the Toc H Birthday Conference of 1924 on the problems of the countryside. (See report of address and discussion in March JOURNAL, 1925.)

Kenneth Ian MacIvor : Padre, Birkenhead Branch

Kenneth MacIvor, Presbyterian Padre of Birkenhead Branch, died suddenly on February 23, leaving a widow, four little girls and an aged mother. He was a man of high character and great gifts and a much-loved Minister among Toc H members.

Geoffrey Anketell Studdert-Kennedy

He was not actually a member of Toc H, but his stirring oratory has been heard at many Toc H gatherings; he wrote a part of one of his best books, *The Word and the Work*, at Mark V, and he died on March 8 at the Vicarage of Edward Harrison, our Liverpool padre. "Woodbine Willie" (his Army nickname stuck to him) found in the War his first great chance. In France from 1916 to 1919 he was always among the men. He used their own vivid language to deliver a simple message about the war's evil and suffering—that "much which men called God was really the Devil; that the greatest sufferer was God Himself, and all the agony of men a part of His; but it was a creative and a conquering agony, like the Crucifixion." In 1922 Archbishop Davidson appointed him to a City living, on the understanding that he was free to travel and speak as a Messenger of the Industrial Christian Fellowship. This was his second great chance, and he gave himself with unsparing vigour, as a red-hot Crusader but also as a real thinker, to denouncing the evils of injustice and strife in industry. "Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy" (writes Tubby in the *Times*) "in war and peace, in speech and writing, in prose and verse, in the flame of his inspired ardour and the wit and force of argument, carried the good news of salvation to more men of our race than any living minister in Christendom." Our sincerest sympathy goes to Mrs. Studdert-Kennedy (who motored to him through the night from her sick children, but arrived too late) and to the I.C.F., where his loss will be irreparable.

THE LIGHTING OF THE NEW LAMPS

AS announced in the February number of the JOURNAL (page 78), H.R.H. the Patron will light the Lamps of the new Branches on the evening of Saturday, April 27, at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.1. The Annual Meeting of the Central Council will be held at 2 p.m. on that day in the *Upper House* of the Church House.

At 7 p.m. the doors of the *Hoare Memorial Hall* in the Church House (entrance in Great Smith Street) will be open to (a) the Lamp-Bearer and Banner-Bearer appointed by each new Branch which is to receive a Lamp; (b) representatives of new Branches, which in the first instance are invited to send six other members; (c) the Donors of the Lamps and the relatives of those to whose memory the Lamps are to be dedicated.

At 7.30 p.m. the doors of the *Large Hall* will be open to representatives of other Branches and Groups. Accommodation is strictly limited and in the first instance an allotment of four tickets only will be made to each Branch and Group applying by April 8.

At 8 p.m. H.R.H. the Patron will arrive. There will be short speeches, the Lighting of the Lamps, and the Ceremony of Light, followed by Family Prayers.

MEALS AND BILLETS: Members of the Central Council can obtain High Tea at the Church House. For others a High Tea (1s. 6d.) will be provided at 6 p.m. in nearby restaurants. Billets (5s.) will be provided for Saturday night, and Breakfast (1s. 6d.) close to All Hallows on Sunday morning.

TICKETS: Admission to the Church House will be by ticket. Secretaries of new Branches and Central Councillors will receive notices. Secretaries of other Branches and Groups are asked to note particularly that this is the only notice they will receive, and that *applications for tickets, with remittances for High Teas, Billets and Breakfasts required, must reach Headquarters by Monday, April 8*. If an allotment of more than four tickets is desired, this should be stated, but no extra money (other than donations towards the general expenses) should be sent. The suggestion is made that some preference should be given to members who have not hitherto had an opportunity of witnessing the Lighting of the Lamps. Applications should be addressed to The Lamp Secretary, Toc H, 1, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1.

EVERY MEMBER'S BOOKSHELF

Opening an Effectual Door

The Cambridge Shorter Bible. Arranged by A. Nairne, T. R. Glover and Sir A. Quiller-Couch. Cambridge University Press. 891 pp. 7s. 6d.

A few weeks ago the B.B.C. switched us over to Plymouth one evening to hear the Bishop of Plymouth (a good friend of Toc H in those parts) talk on the Bible. It may be that hundred of listeners turned off the loudspeaker or laid down the earphones at that point in the programme. But those who persevered with Dr. Masterman for the first moments surely heard him to the end, for in the few minutes at his disposal he succeeded in throwing what to many must have been a new light on a very old subject. He picked the Bible up, so to speak, as one picks up the most fascinating and friendly books, and turned over the pages, dipping here and there and passing on. What a wealth in this library confined within one pair of covers! What history and drama, poetry and plain speaking, grandeur and tenderness! The very language of our daily newspaper is tinged, unconsciously, by this Book, and our life every day is ordered and coloured by it in a hundred ways we do not realise. A Book which opens and closes with pictures of the First and of the Last Things—pictures of the Things which go beyond human speech and experience. A Book which rises by wonderful and slow degrees to its full stature in the greatest Biography in the world—and in the telling of it uses a simplicity that only a childlike heart can fully understand.

Dr. Masterman told us that he had recently had occasion to read one of the Gospels at a sitting and how such a reading grips the reader. How many of us have ever done that simple thing? And why, when the Bible lies always to hand, has the idea of doing so never crossed our minds? Probably there are many reasons. To begin with, Bible reading is "out of fashion": our grandfathers' habit of a daily "portion" needs more time (we argue) than this headlong age affords. And then we have a vague impression that the Bible has been a bit "blown upon" by the critics from within and the scientists from without: it is no longer the literal Word of God—and if not that, where is the plain man to draw the line between true and false? Still less is it the infallible quarry where a man can "prick a text" for every emergency of the day, or to suit the mood of the moment: it holds no ready talisman for us. And then—this is really a bit pathetic—the Bible for some of us is discarded because of old associations: it belonged to the Sunday School, and (to quote its own words—you can't easily escape its words after all!) "when I became a man I put away childish things." And then—most elementary but not least real reason of all—the Bible *looks* so different from the other books we read, so frankly unattractive to the casual eye and rather indolent mind. Whereas the standard of beauty and convenience has constantly risen in the books which the shops and libraries offer us, the form of the Bible has remained unchanged. The same nasty, shiny, cheap black cover or nastier, expensive, floppy leather one; the same overcrowded, two-column page of small print; the same irrational and irritating fashion of chopping a story up into sentences and numbering them. Within such dismal and needless fetters of outward form has the Bible's limitless freedom been confined for the reader. It comes to meet us in a guise so unlike any other book we read that we cannot face it fairly and with an open mind. We are absurdly self-conscious when we open it; we blush when we are caught with it in hand. For a thousand who are found reading *David Copperfield* or a hundred reading *Unto this last* in the morning trains city-wards, you may perhaps find one (and he, in some sort, a "professional") who openly reads the Book from which Dickens and Ruskin drew the richness of their speech and the kernel of what they had to say.

The older generation of Bible-readers has long been passing, and is almost gone. Modern knowledge and habits no longer allow of their clear, unquestioning simplicity. And with the m

has passed something stronger and more beautiful and wholesome than most of us realise. But why should not a new generation of Bible readers take their place? In some ways, their reading will exact more of them, but the certainty of their reward will be no less. They will quite frankly set the Bible among all the other books they read—and find it rise far above them all. They will have to challenge the Bible with all the other things they know—and find that advancing knowledge, instead of defeating the Bible, serves but to throw new lights upon its central truth from countless new angles.

The Book is there, as it has been for centuries—but how to get at it? Years ago, in accordance with what some deemed “advanced” scholarship, Dr. Moulton gave us the *Modern Reader's Bible*. Its form was immediately attractive and intelligible. As you turned its pages the Psalms took the eye like the poetry, and the Gospels like the prose, printed in the books we read every day. Its rearrangement of parts was unfamiliar, and its price a bit too high for many pockets, but it has surely won many convinced readers for the Bible. And now something a little simpler is offered to us by the Cambridge University Press. Inside these neat blue covers lies (as their wrapper says) “all but the least attractive parts of the Bible. It is not the whole Book, nor on the other hand a mere volume of selections; it is offered as a Bible reduced in compass, yet faithful to the whole.” Gone are the needless fetters—the double columns of poor print, the arbitrary chapter divisions, the numbered verses; gone also the long genealogies, the repetition of accounts of the same event in Old Testament history, and the minute details of Jewish law which puzzle and weary the plain man without edifying him. The selection is due to the three well-known scholars and writers whose names appear on the title-page; the sane and simple arrangement of paragraphs and punctuation, which does so much to help the reader, is the result of the long labour of Gordon Carey, one of our own Foundation members. The *Cambridge Shorter Bible* is not an antiquated book “brought up to date”: it is the old, enduring and inexhaustible Scripture in the words sacred and familiar to so many generations. What it provides (and that is not a little service) is a new doorway into the Bible's incomparable treasury. Why should not many Toc H members—new-comers among the modern generation of Bible-readers—take fresh heart and enter in?

Whence and Whither?

The Travels and Settlements of Early Man: A Study of the Origins of Human Progress. By T. S. Foster. Ernest Benn. 21s.

Here is an imposing book by a senior member of Toc H—Foster is Reader in Education and Master of Method at Bristol University. “I have written it” (he says in a letter to the Editor) “as a member of Toc H, and, as I trust, in a Toc H spirit; at least it has provided material for several Mark IX talks.” The book deals, of course, with one of the most fascinating and controversial of all subjects—the origin and progress of our human family, man emerging from the brute and the half-man, man from the Stone Age to the beginnings of true history, and men's early exploits in Mesopotamia and Egypt, India, North and South America, Melanesia and New Zealand. The learned reader will probably often challenge Foster in his pursuit of truth (and ultimate truth can only be approached by a constant succession of challenges), but every reader will be impressed by the depth and the width of his knowledge. The whole argument of the book seems to lead up to a question often asked nowadays because it is of vital importance to the future of the human family—does our civilisation, the stage which we men have reached, stand for initiative and further adventure, or merely for “safety first”? Are we still young enough to be fascinated by the unknown, the fascination which has drawn mankind through the difficult upward struggle of his history? Or are we—primitive creatures as we still seem to be—growing old? Here is a book for any of Foster's fellow-members who don't shrink from some hard reading.

The Citizen-to-Be

The Citizen of To-morrow (Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1s. 6d.) is "the outcome, and in a certain sense the report, of the National Conference on the Welfare of Youth, held at Croydon, October 25 to 29, 1928." The Conference, which was visited by the Duke of York, and was attended by nearly 500 delegates, was very representative in character and included members of Toc H. To cover a wide field, the work was carried on in eight sections, the findings of which were brought before the whole Conference for consideration and general approval. The book is not a bald and prosaic report, but a series of essays by the leaders of the several sections, embodying the general sense of the conclusions and proposals adopted by the Conference. Under the headings of Youth and Religion, Youth and Industry, Youth and Leisure, Youth and Sex, Continued Education, Unattached Youth, and the Recruitment and Training of Social Workers, the needs and the potentialities of the young of the Nation are considered from various points of view, and with an understanding and freshness which should commend the book to the family of Toc H. And let no one miss the vivid opening papers by Canon E. S. Woods, the Chairman of the Conference, and Lord Polwarth. There is much here to interest the jobmaster, the club-manager and others; much for discussion and thinking out. Can we learn something useful for ourselves about the need and the methods of training for service, and of drawing others of all classes in to lend a hand? And what of the boys we may be trying to shepherd, in their industrial conditions, their broken education, their leisure? The spirit and purport of the Conference and the book are well summarised in this sentence from the Foreword contributed by the Duke of York:—"But if only all those who really care for the happiness of the world and the good of the country, old and young alike, could think together and pull together, we ought to be able to do more than has yet been done to train the citizens of the future for the work which awaits them."

Towards Understanding

Britain and Germany: A frank discussion instigated by members of the younger generation. Edited by Rolf Gardiner and Heinz Rocholl. Williams and Norgate. 7s. 6d.

The many Toc H members who have recently shown interest in the problems of young Germany, and especially those who are thinking of a visit to that country, will do well to read this book. It is a "symposium," almost a debate, in which many aspects of Anglo-German relations and of English and German national characteristics are dealt with by young English and German writers, turn and turn about. Not all of it is equally valuable, but its best parts—*i.e.*, the parts in which the writers of either country speak out most fearlessly—throw a flood of light on past misunderstandings and tragedies, on present difficulties between the two peoples, and on the great hopes or great disasters (whether it is to be hope or despair depends on *our* attitude now in both countries) of the future. It is worth anyone's while, for instance, to read the section on "the origin and development of the political conflict between Great Britain and Germany," in which G. P. Gooch (joint editor of the *Contemporary Review*) states the English version of 19th century history, and Horst Michael (who is writing a book on *Bismark and England*) answers with the German. Who did most to make war almost inevitable—Bismark and William II, or the late Lord Salisbury and Edward VII? The writers disagree—and most of the readers in the two countries will do the same. But it is not enough to listen to one's own case only, and then claim to have the whole truth. Georg Goetsch on "Germany between Russia and England," or the English "Diplomaticus" on "Romanticism in Germany from an English viewpoint," will help members who visit Germany not to misunderstand things often misunderstood by the casual traveller. And the report of the joint camp of young Englishmen and young Germans in Scotland last year is a joy to read: it was real "Toc H work."

MULTUM IN PARVO

♣ We are most gratified to be able to announce that Earl BALFOUR and Bishop EDWARD TALBOT have become *Presidents*, and Sir WILLIAM CAMPION (Governor of Western Australia) and Sir REGINALD S. MAY (formerly Chairman of the Central Executive) have become *Vice-Presidents* of Toc H.

♣ Congratulations to the following new Branches, promoted by the Central Executive on March 6: BELLINGHAM, BIRKENHEAD, FULHAM, LANCASTER, TWICKENHAM, MOOSE JAW. A full list of the new Branches which will receive Lamps on April 27 will be given in the April JOURNAL.

♣ The following additional Councillors for the SCOTTISH COUNCIL of Toc H have been nominated: DAVID BOYLE, Col. W. ROBERTSON, V.C., and Lt.-General Sir AYLMER HUNTER-WESTON.

♣ A NORTH-WESTERN AREA COUNCIL has now been authorised and will meet in April. (The new Area, which amalgamates the old Lancashire and Mersey-side Areas is divided into three Divisions—Manchester, Salford and Merseyside—and now has seven Districts. The Council will have two representatives per District, of whom "Sawbones," Area Padre, is one *ex-officio*.)

♣ A hearty welcome to JOHN MALLET (Jobmaster of Mark I) who joins the H.Q. staff.

♣ Warmest congratulations to Major SEGRAVE (General Branch) on gaining the world's speed record with the *Golden Arrow* at Daytona, Ohio, on March 11.

♣ A SCHOOL'S TOUR TO BERLIN, arranged by the S.S.B., leaves England on April 8 for nearly three weeks. Fifty boys and four masters, from Christ's Hospital, Wellington, Cheltenham, and Gresham's (Holt) constitute the party, while Barkis represents the S.S.B.

♣ *Secretaries' List*: Alterations and additions: (a) *New Districts*: LUTON, *District Sec.*, F. J. Merchant, 22, London Road; ST. ALBANS, *District Sec.*, Capt. J. M. Donaldson, Kenmure, Sandpit Lane; COLCHESTER, *District Sec.*, W. L. Manning, 26, High Street; NORWICH,

District Sec., R. Treherne, Bracondale School; BOURNEMOUTH, *District Sec.*, F. J. Hart, 8, Old Road, Wimborne. MANCHESTER District has now been divided into MANCHESTER (District Sec. as before) and STOCKPORT, *District Sec.*, F. Greaves, 44, Binksway. (This District includes Stockport, Bramhall, Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Macclesfield and Poynton.)

(b) *New Groups*—*At home*: ALFRETON, S. H. Brown, 36, Mansfield Road. *Overseas*: KAMPALA, The Secretary, Toc H, Box 372, Kampala, Uganda.

(c) *Change of Secretary*—*At home*: BIRKENHEAD, R. M. Henderson, 26, South Hill Road; BUXTON, S. B. Bower, 11, Grange Road; CHELSEA, W. J. Jones, 25, Battersea Bridge Buildings, S.W.11; CROYDON, F. Gales, 18, Penwortham Road, Sanderstead, Surrey; FALMOUTH, S. Hough, "Roswen," Western Terrace; GRIMSBY, T. R. True, 170, Legsby Avenue; LOWESTOFT, R. W. King, 16, Denmark Road; MAIDA VALE, R. de Pinto, 12, Hanington Court, S.W.7 (correspondence to L. Nicholls, 44, Gloucester Mews, W.2); MARK III, A. S. Bastow, 148, York Road, S.E.1; MEXBOROUGH, S. Skelton, 11, Market Street; NORTHWICH, S. Craven, 39, Castle Hill; RAMSBOTTOM, R. Whitehead, Barwood House; RAYLEIGH, S. B. Chapman, "Hazel-dene," Hockley Road; SOUTHPORT, E. Haines, 32, Arbour Street; SWANSEA, G. A. Rosser, "Highmead," Lon Cynlais, Cwm Gwyn; TAUNTON, R. Melvin-Warner, c/o The New Inn, Wilton. *Overseas*—*Canada*: VANCOUVER, S. L. Stephens, Mark III C, 1263, Davie Street. *Rhodesia*: SALISBURY, G. Hamp-Adams, Box 373; UMTALI, L. Parry, Umtali.

(d) *Change of Secretary's address*: EDMONTON, Secretary to 29, Colville Road, N.9; ROTHERHAM, Secretary to 16, Central Avenue, East Deane.

(e) *Correction*: HEANOR, Secretary's address is 102 (not 92) Ray Street; LEATHERHEAD, R. C. Tompkins, 8, Manor Green Road East, Epsom (West Surrey District) was inadvertently omitted in the January List.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

London Federation

In the *South Eastern District*, WOOLWICH have raised £18 for St. Dunstan's by a house-to-house collection. Two new boys' clubs have been opened. LEWISHAM opened a new chapter in their history at a supper on January 12, to celebrate a move into new quarters at the Y.M.C.A. Morris Hall. Eight or nine probationers form a promising "outer guard." SIDCUP held a Branch supper on February 21, and announce a dance on a grand scale on April 10 (Tickets 5s. All invited). DEPTFORD "Grove" are still going strong at "The Departed Spirits," 1, Addy Street, Deptford. The building is to be open every night as an information bureau, with a Toc H man on duty to receive questions on all subjects: answers to most problems will be given within three days. Two members act as clerks, and investigators to the Poor Man's Lawyer, who operates from the Grove headquarters.

At the next *Western District* Guest-night at Mark I on Wednesday, April 10, a talk will be given by Lord Forster. ACTON had a notable first re-dedication on February 3, when Tubby, who preached at St. Martin's Church, found that members of the group had been joined by representatives of most of the Western, North-Western, and South-Western Branches. Tubby ended an intimate family talk by a reference to the Soapstone Lamp.* "I have not thought of it before in connection with you," he said, "but the Esquimaux word for 'Light' is *Aktoon*." EALING members,

* The arrest of two Esquimaux murderers by the light of this soapstone lamp by Inspector La Nauze of the Canadian N.W. Mounted Police, after nearly a year's travel into the Arctic Circle, was described by himself in the JOURNAL, December, 1926. The lamp itself now rests beside the Prince's Lamp in All Hallows.

after hearing a talk by the Governor of Wormwood Scrubs Prison, realised the value of prison-visiting and Borstal work, with which some were previously only vaguely acquainted. There are whispers of another "smoke fast" and a Branch week-end trip to Ypres. Both UXBRIDGE and FULHAM hope soon to be raised to Branch status, Fulham, with whom are some very keen members, finding good work to do in connection with a boys' club, and at Roehampton Hospital. CHISWICK is congratulated on having been recognised as a Group, and the members, who have got going remarkably well, are in good hands with three padres and two more in the offing. Progress is again being reported by SOUTHWALL, who have found an enthusiastic new secretary, and the early work is being consolidated and extended. Western District now has its Pilot, whose appointment is cordially welcomed (see February JOURNAL, p. 78). Members of Branches and Groups in the area have had their attention called to the desirability of finding accommodation for miners from the distressed areas, who are being given work in the Royal Parks and the job is strongly recommended as one which they should undertake if called upon to do so. (See February JOURNAL, p. 60).

London Sports Club—Rugger Section: All Branch and Group Secretaries and Rugger enthusiasts should note that the last date for entries in the Seven-a-side Tournament on April 6 is March 16: all entries to Geoffrey Batchelar, Mark II. It is hoped that members will roll up in force from all Branches and Groups. The first match is timed to start at 2.15 p.m. on the Toc H ground at New Barnet.

Western Home Counties Area

GODALMING had a most successful "house - warming" of their new headquarters on January 17. Members of Toc H and L.W.H. from neighbouring units came in good force. The evening opened with a

re-dedication service in the Wesleyan Church, in which Ronnie Grant and Padre Tom Garaway took part. The subsequent proceedings were in regular Toc H style—a supper, a meeting at which Grant, Garaway,

and Padre Colson (Portsmouth, late Godalming) spoke to good purpose. The fitting end was the dedication of the Branch's Chapel by Tom Garaway.

An effort is being made through the West Surrey District Committee to start Toc H in Redhill and Reigate. Some good preliminary spade work was done last Summer, and Padre Budden (Weybridge) preached at Redhill Congregational Church on February 11, and a meeting was held in the afternoon, addressed by members from the District. LEATHERHEAD, after a long self-imposed probation as a Grope, received their Rushlight on January 23 from the hands of the District Secretary: twenty-eight members were initiated. The Group's concert party is arranging shows at local hospitals and institutions; Rugger and Soccer matches have been fixed up; and several news jobs have come along. One member serves on the town committee, which is organising help for the distressed miners, and several consignments of boots and shoes have been sent by the Group to Toc H in South Wales for distribution. FARNHAM Group, which shows considerable revival, is responsible for the storing and despatching of all the clothing collected in the neighbourhood for the miners, and about three-quarters of a ton had already been sent to Merthyr Tydvil. At Christmas time the members raised over £11 for the

London Association for the Blind by carol-singing, and, later, over £7 for St. Dunstan's. WEYBRIDGE held their third Birthday Festival on February 23 and 24, with Padre Tom Garaway present. There is still work to be done at the new headquarters, but the hall is now ready and is being used for a boys' club, the nucleus of which was formed by a football club which the Branch started last season, and which now heads its league. Some Branch members have volunteered to be ready if called upon to help the nursing staff at the local hospital at night. The annual service of re-dedication was held at the Congregational Church on December 30, immediately following the evening service, and a large congregation remained to take part with the Branch members. A new system of Branch meetings has been instituted—first Thursday, a discussion on some subject directly related to the "Points of the Compass"; second Thursday, a speaker on a social service subject; third Thursday, one or more members speak on their own day-time job; fourth Thursday, a "grub" social evening; fifth Thursday, when it exists, the L.W.H. are invited. A "Penny-or-more-per-meeting-per-member" scheme for the Endowment Fund works well. The Branch is again organising Marigold Day for the Deaf and Dumb, and has been asked to arrange a concert to aid distressed miners.

South-Eastern Area

The chief event of the month at TUNBRIDGE WELLS was an "implosion" in force on Wadhurst, which gives every prospect of a Grope soon. Jobs include packing clothing for the miners, visiting the old folks, distributing firewood, and a new job is lending a friendly hand to some discharged prisoners, under the D.P.A.S. Recent speakers have been a Probation Officer, and a representative of the Empire Marketing Board. CHELSFIELD held their Birthday Festival on February 6. Padre Gilbert Williams spoke at the thanksgiving in the Parish Church. At a gathering in the village Hall afterwards

Bromley Branch were welcome guests, but the Group were sorry not to have their great friend Slessor (Keston) with them—he was not yet back from his mission to Malta.

The February number of *Jottings*, the news-sheet of WEST KENT Branch, is as full of good stuff as usual. We learn from it that the Branch now has 82 members in their scattered district—and apparently all really active. The "*General Wing*," with its isolated members far afield, has sixteen men; *East Farleigh Wing* also has sixteen; *Offham*, the youngest Wing, have nineteen; *Otford*, twenty-four; *Platt*, ten.

Northern Home Counties and East Anglia

Most people heard the rumour during the War that the War Office had "mislaid" a Division—had sent it off to some corner of the world and forgotten where. WOLVERTON Branch has been a sort of lost Division for several years. Letters from H.Q. received no answer, members did not attend the Birthday Festival—or failed to make their presence known. The Guards of the Lamp were disturbed, and finally discovered a Branch meeting, and sent Barkis and Tom Garaway to investigate. And a live bit of the Toc H Family was unearthed in spite of their modesty. The Branch meets regularly, and is busy with jobs. Their help in the Wolverton town effort for the Northampton Hospital was recognised by the jobmaster being made a member of the Board of Directors of the Hospital. The Branch has undertaken to organise a weekly house-to-house collection for the Lord Mayor's Fund for the miners, extending over three months. The first job of the New Year was a house-to-house collection for St. Dunstons, which realised £25. WATFORD co-operated with RADLETT in arranging a New Year's party for over 100 poor children at Watford. LEIGHTON BUZZARD had a year of progress in 1928. Starting with thirteen members in a loaned room, they ended the year with 38 members in a headquarters of their own. They took over a disused bakehouse in April, and cleaned and decorated it themselves; in September, they acquired their present H.Q., which contains a common room, games room, upper room, committee room, and canteen, in a

very central position. At Christmas Toc H and L.W.H. members carolled to such purpose that they were able to give a party to 250 poor children, and hand the surplus over to the local Poor Children's Boot Fund. Their nigger minstrels have been in great demand for helping various causes and in neighbouring villages. A house-to-house collection for St. Dunstons has just been carried out. About twenty corporate jobs, including work for Scouts, League of Nations Union, etc., were carried out last year. The notification recently that a Lamp had been granted was most enthusiastically received.

In *East Anglia*, NORWICH Branch inspired an appeal for more adequate club premises for the local Deaf and Dumb. In November a public meeting for it was held in the biggest hall in the city, with the Lord Mayor in the chair. Some headway is being made, but the appeal for the distressed miners is a strong counter claim at present. The Branch's newly acquired Chapel was dedicated by "Sawbones," who came over from Manchester on November 14. On Armistice Day members kept a watch before the Lamp there, and the Unknown Soldier's Cross, presented to the Branch in Westminster Abbey, has now been placed there. On January 10, the Branch gave its annual treat to 100 poor children. Norwich has helped LOWESTOFT Group to get going, and form members went over, in the name of H.Q., to present them with their Rushlight. Lowestoft is co-operating heartily in work for the Deaf and Dumb.

West Midlands Area

The WEST BROMWICH effort for the Endowment Fund was a play written and produced by one of their members (Dr. Selwyn Edwardes), entitled "The Jewel of the Himalayas." It was given by themselves in the West Bromwich Town Hall last month, and will result in about £50 being handed over to the Endowment Fund. Following on the

play a *Birmingham District* Guest-night was held in West Bromwich on February 16. "Dirk," the District Pilot, talked on Toc H, past, present, and future, and Padre Money also held the floor for a few minutes on L.W.H. This Guest-night should help to strengthen Toc H in West Bromwich, and also in the new Groves in the Area; two of these

MOSELEY and SMALL HEATH, are well under weigh; WORCESTER, HEREFORD, LADBROKE and NEWPORT (Salop) began to "grope" in January.

The big job of the Birmingham District at present is the Sunday Evening Club, being run at Kyrle Hall, in the slummiest part of Birmingham, each Sunday, from 8 p.m.-10 p.m., when 300-400 fellows and girls find their way there for a chat, warmth, and a cup of coffee. This follows on the opening of Mark VI. on Sunday evenings for about three months, until it began to be crowded. An effort is being made during the next six weeks to run the place simply as a club, without any form of concert or entertainment. HARBORNE are re-creating their hut at last, having been successful in leasing some land with the option to purchase—a big undertaking for them to tackle. RUGBY held their fifth Birthday Festival in January. On Sunday morning there were Communion

services for Church of England members at Newbold Church, and for Free Church members at the Baptist Chapel, followed by a family breakfast; in the evening, a thanksgiving was held in Rugby Parish Church, with an address by Archdeacon Hankin (Branch President). A Birthday party was held on Monday evening for members and friends, and on Tuesday there was a Birthday dinner at which representatives of all the trades and professions in the town were present: Col. Mynors Farmer (Lichfield) was the chief guest. Branch jobs include the packing of clothes for distressed miners and a successful concert for St. Dunstan's. KIDDERMINSTER offered their services and room to the Mayor for the collection, receipt and despatch of clothing in connection with the Miners' Distress Fund. The Group headquarters is open for this purpose every evening and nearly half a ton of stuff has been dealt with.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Areas

In the *West Riding*, LEEDS have celebrated their Birthday, at the Red House. The Groups and Gropes of the Leeds District were present, and Ronnie Grant presented Rushlights to Arnley-and-Wortley and Burley Groups. Early in the New Year the annual Children's Party was given to 200 children of the poor neighbourhood. Plans have now been submitted for the Chapel in Red House, and a gift of £250 from two donors makes it possible to proceed at once. The Jobmaster's report at the Annual General Meeting showed a good record of jobs, corporate and individual, carried out by members.

In *East Yorks*, GOOLE held its Birthday on January 12-13. Members with visitors from Hull, Newland, Doncaster, and Mexborough, met at the National School on Saturday. Padre Molyneux (East Yorks Area) conducted a re-dedication service: supper and a social

evening followed. On Sunday, "Moly" celebrated at the Parish Church at 8 a.m., preached at the morning service, addressed the Goole Brotherhood in the afternoon, and preached at St. Paul's in the evening.

In *Lincolnshire*, SPILSBY, which began to "grope" last October with a meeting conducted by Louth members and Padre Molyneux, now has twenty members and four probationers. They have re-conditioned and furnished their own headquarters, and are doing a variety of individual jobs—church, Sunday School, and Scout work, helping charities through an operatic society, while one member runs a shorthand class for young people with nothing to do in the evenings. A "flying squad" of nine members hopes to form Groups in three other towns in East Lincs. A Guest-night is held on the last Friday of each month.

Northern Area

Jolli Walker's departure for Bristol has left a gap hard to fill. He tried to creep away

silently, but Mark XVIII was early awake that morning. "I hope the Mark gets no

worse, for then it would not be 'Toc H, and no better, for then it would cease to be interesting," was his parting shot. Happily, the new District Committees on *Tees-side* and *Tyneside* were formed before he went, and they have done much to give practical shape to a very healthy family spirit. Each District has a seaside baby to nurse, REDCAR on Tees-side and WHITLEY BAY on Tyneside. The Tyneside babe has already doffed swaddling clothes, and is now a recognised Group, specialising in relief committee visiting. A special request has been received from the

Chaplain of the Northumberland and Durham Mission to the Deaf and Dumb. He wants a note in the JOURNAL expressing gratitude to the STANLEY Group for their work for his Mission. Happily such work is now a routine occurrence in Toc H, but this is a special request and a special case, all the more notable because Stanley is in a "stricken" area. Shows what happens when a stricken area is smitten with Toc H! Next important event, Bazaar at MARK XVIII in April to raise the rest of the House purchase price, much overdue, crippling our efforts.

North-Western Area

In the *Manchester Division*, BLACKBURN have started a club with thirty boys, who were running wild in the streets. Members of the Branch are also helping at another boys' club, and training boys and girls for St. John's Ambulance Brigade. At the Branch meeting on January 30, a sing-song and debate, by way of a change, were very successful, and on February 5 a talk by Mr. Isaac Caswell, the football referee, was much appreciated.

Branches and Groups in the *Merseyside Division* have not reported their doings very regularly in these pages, and the following notes cover a period of six months or more. The *Liverpool District* Committee has now been functioning for nearly a year, and there is no doubt that it has done a great deal of useful work in co-ordinating the work of Toc H in the District, and also in stimulating the formation of new Groups. As a result of pioneer work by the ST. HELENS Branch, a new Group was formed at PRESCOT in the autumn, and some members "hiving off" from Liverpool have started a Group in WALLASEY. The latest offspring is a prospective Group at Earlestown cum Newton-le-Willows, and there are high hopes for Widnes and Warrington in the near future. Following on "Tubby's" visit to LIVERPOOL in November last, when he told the Branch a few "home truths," there has been a certain amount of self-criticism, and a good deal of thinking and praying about things, amongst

members. Plans are laid for at least three new Groups in the environs of Liverpool and the establishment of permanent Headquarters in the city before the end of 1929. At Christmas, there were the usual activities—breakfast for over 250 poor kiddies on Christmas morning, a party for old folks, and a special parlour for the crippled children. During the S.C.M. Conference in January, Headquarters were open as a rest-room and canteen, and students from all parts of the British Isles and some from abroad were welcomed. Ever since the "Toc H Week" held in the town in October last, the ST. HELENS Branch have been "full of beans." In addition to much missionary work in Prescott, Widnes and Earlestown, members have been helping in the distribution of relief in the local distressed area, and are also busy furnishing new and larger Headquarters. Members of WATERLOO Branch gave a party for poor kiddies at Christmas, and have been making contacts in Bootle with a view to starting a Group there. In addition to their regular jobs, SOUTHPORT members have assisted in collections for the Miners' Relief Fund, and are hoping to invade Ormskirk in the near future. CHESTER is one of the keenest units in the District. The Group have opened and staffed a collecting depot in the centre of the city in connection with the Mayor's Fund for relief in the distressed areas. Members have also undertaken the running

of a new boys' club in conjunction with the local Council of Social Service. BIRKENHEAD are still making good use of the Headquarters, which are open every night of the week for activity or meeting. A successful District Guest-night was held at Birkenhead in January. The first corporate job done by the new PRESCOT Group was the running of a party for poor children at Christmas, the

money for which was raised by means of a concert. Members are also running a library for the local hospital. The new WALLASEY Group, though small in numbers, are keen, and mean to see that new recruits are "stickers." The first open night was held on February 6, when members from Liverpool and Waterloo came over to "push the boat out."

South Coast and Wessex Arcas

HASTINGS has seen much activity in the last two months. Early in December a concert for Branch funds was a real success. The Branch "welfare committee" floated a scheme to form a separate welfare fund, and achieved over £36. Active support has been given to the Shaftesbury Home and the Mayor's Christmas Fund. The fourth annual supper was a very happy event, and at the Annual Meeting a new set of officers was elected "giving all an added interest in the Branch, for the more jobs can be delegated, the more Toc H means to us." BURWASH Group is to be congratulated on their four-page printed news-sheet—on orange paper. This excellent production leads one to suspect the Rectory printing press, at which "Madre" Meade is to be found at night working overtime when the Parish Magazine is due!

In the *Isle of Wight*, COWES AND EAST COWES arranged a concert, given by Newport Victoria Sports Club Juvenile Concert Party, at the Town Hall on January 23, in aid of the local hospital. They also arranged a concert in Camp Hill Prison, which gave great pleasure to the prisoners. Congratulations to their stalwart Jobmaster, "Stripes" (Sergt. Major Pearce, R.E.), on his recent marriage. Trade depression is acute in the district, and members are trying to help in various ways. The RYDE Rushlight and Banner were recently dedicated at the Parish Church to the memory of "Six Elder Brethren of the neighbourhood." The lighting of the Ryde Rushlight, followed by those of Cowes, and Bembridge in the church, was very impressive. At the Welby Institute afterwards Dick Pennell (Southampton) spoke.

Wales

CARDIFF'S Birthday Festival (see February JOURNAL) has given the Branch much encouragement. Apart from the usual activities at the Infirmary and Boys' Clubs, they have been able to help the distressed miners (at Caerphilly and Abergwynfi, in particular) carry out a house-to-house collection for St. Dunstan's, collect for Dr. Barnardo's at a football match, and arrange two concerts, one for the Mission to Seamen at Barry Dock, and the other at a neighbouring village. A weekly lecture for probationers, explaining Toc H and social service, by Padre Hughes, is of immense help, and a talk on February 12 by Col. Davey (Bath) on "Psychology," was much appreciated. Before

these notes are in print, LAMPETER will probably be added to the Welsh Groups. For some time the college men have been having "gripe" meetings with the townsmen, and, in spite of the great difficulties attending the finding of jobs, in such a small town, have been managing much good work. It will be a real source of strength to Toc H in Wales to have a strong Group at the Theological College, which sends so many men into the Welsh Church, and it is to be hoped also that it will be also a great inspiration to the Church in Wales for so many of their number to take the field imbued with the spirit of Toc H. MOUNTAIN ASH, one of the mining valley Groups, had their first Birthday Festival on

the 13th inst.—a very successful affair. The service was held in the English Baptist Church (Nazareth), when Padre Penry Thomas, Cardiff Branch, gave a truly inspiring address. Afterwards, there was a supper, and many speeches. In spite of the difficulty of getting to Mountain Ash, many Groups sent representatives and each Group was invited to say a few words. This principle of asking visiting representatives of Groups to speak is very sound and fosters the family spirit. Mountain Ash is one of the Groups that has had to "gain hard ground by inches," and much

credit is due to them for the way in which they have tackled the local distress problem. They thank the English Branches and Groups who have stood by them with generous gifts of clothing and money. Firmly rooted as Toc H is now in Mountain Ash, we hope to make real progress in the neighbouring valleys. A successful meeting was held in HAVERFORDWEST on February 8, and it was unanimously determined to go forward with forming a "grope." We hear cheering news from the Group at ABERYSTWYTH—an ideal place for a Camp.

Scotland

DUNDEE celebrated its first Birthday festival on January 15 with a dinner, attended by practically all local members, two representatives from Edinburgh Branch, and some guests. Padre Strathearn presided, and read the answer to a message of sympathy addressed to H.M. the Queen: "The Queen gratefully thanks Dundee Group's first Birthday gather-

ing for their most kind message, which her Majesty keenly appreciates." There were several speeches. Baillie Long, one of the guests, proposed the toast of "the Dundee Group," and the remarks of an Edinburgh Branch speaker on blood transfusion as a Toc H job have already resulted in the Group carrying it out. A successful evening.

Ireland, Northern Section

A visit from "Sawbones" is expected in March, and the programme of BELFAST Branch has been devised to serve as preparation for it. The last few weeks have been chiefly occupied with the subject of distress in the City. The Branch took the initiative in calling a representative meeting of citizens, with Lord Justice Andrews in the chair. Two Committees—one for investigation, one for finance—have been set up, each presided over by a Toc H Professor of Queen's University. The Branch now stands aside, except for such help as individual members of Toc H and L.W.H. can give. Newsboys' Club, Prison and other activities go on steadily, and the Branch takes new rooms in May.

The united effect of the Birthday Festival, the Area Conference, preparations for "Sawbones," Distress and influenza has been to put the Branch in a state of flux! A meeting has been held at Queen's University, presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, and at last the nucleus of a Group auxiliary to the Branch has been formed—but the promoters are too busy to get on with it. CARRICKFERGUS has lost a dear old member in Captain Carrey, aged 78. LURGAN Boys' Club has had up to 140 applicants, who are being tackled in relays. ARMAGH is busy. ("None of the Groups," adds the scribe from Belfast, "send information for the JOURNAL, and then they wonder there is not more"!)



News from Overseas Branches and Groups

RHODESIA

On December 15, SALISBURY Group, in conjunction with L.W.H., gave an informal Birthday concert in the Cathedral Hall. There was community singing, with many old favourites, and the *pièce de résistance* was a one-act melodramatic burlesque "From Darkness to Dawn." The success of this first attempt at theatricals encouraged the Group to make this a regular part of their work, with a special view to their monthly hospital concerts. On Christmas afternoon the Group took over the usual afternoon entertainment at the Hospital, and most members gave up their tennis and other Christmas pastimes to come along and help. On December 16, a Birthday service was held in the Cathedral, conducted by Padre Noble (the Group's Wesleyan Padre), and the Bishop preached on the Four Points of the Compass: St. George's Chapel was filled to its utmost capacity. On the following evening (Monday) the Annual General Meeting was held. Salisbury has discovered a new job, peculiar to conditions in South Africa, which they call that of "night policemen." "People with children" (says the Group scribe) "do not care to leave them at night under the sole care of natives, and so husband and wife are prevented from going out together at nights. So we made a list of fellows who would be willing to act *in loco parentis*, and so far we have had several calls on our service. This job seems to fill a want in a country like this . . . It usually means merely parking down in another man's house, and writing letters or reading until the proud parents return to their offspring. None of our chaps has yet had to walk the floor or even warm the bottle!"

We have received No. 3, the Christmas number, of the Toc H *Bulletin*, "for Toc H and Toc Emma Groups in the two Rhodesias and Portuguese East Africa." As H.Q. has now been transferred from Salisbury to Bulawayo, the *Bulletin* is now "under new management." This is a real Christmas

number, containing, besides much news, "a Christmas tale inspired by Welsh rabbit for dinner"—a nightmare of ice and snow in the intense heat of Rhodesian December. QUE QUE, by strenuous work at designing and running stalls and side-shows at a Fete, on November 3, were able to hand £140 to the building fund of the local Anglican Church. BULAWAYO had its ranks depleted by sickness in the hot winter weather, but have taken on the considerable corporate job of laying out and planting the garden of the Aged Women's Home. Their L.W.H. is also very active. UMTALI (which has since been promoted to Branch status) held its Birthday Festival on December 10. A service in the Presbyterian Church was followed by a happy social evening, at the end of which over a hundred folk turned out into a deluge of rain at 11 p.m. An Umtali senior member writes to Harry Ellison: "Since you left Umtali we have steadily moved forward and prospects are very encouraging. I feel it is well worth while to have hung on through the Toc H slump here in 1927 when I go down on Monday evening to find twenty to thirty young men, well mixed in all respects and with a leaven of us old birds, all bent on making things go. They are all good for any job that comes along and give of their best when called on. The Government have given us a free grant of a stand for our building, the condition being that we erect a house or room worth £300 within three years. We already have £180 in hand, and, as we purpose doing most of the job ourselves, I am hopeful that the work will be completed both within the financial and time limits. The ideal ahead of us is of course a Mark, possibly Mark I Rhodesia—O boastful spirit!—but that is still a dream." LIVINGSTONE, which has about ten initiated members, and some probationers, has hit on the idea of getting members in rotation to keep them in touch by letter with other Toc H units in Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA

In *Natal*, DURBAN has started two new Gropes in the last three months—one at Greenwood Park called PARK HILL, and one called BERE. For February 5 they arranged a big Rally for everyone who had come in contact with Durban Toc H since it started three years ago. They held a Fete on December 1 to provide Christmas gifts for poor children, which realised £150. The Toc H "shaving brigade" is now well known in Durban. They shave and give hair cuts to the old men in the local Hospital every Sunday morning—a job they have kept going for the past two and a half years.

Cape Province East has started a typed monthly *Bulletin*, of which the December number has reached us. In the *Western Province*, CAPETOWN CENTRAL reports an impressive ceremony, when the Provincial Lamp was taken, on the Sunday following the Birthday Festival, to St. George's Cathedral, the Dean of which is a member, while Canon White is the Branch Padre. The Lamp was set on the chancel steps during the evening service, the Registrar and as many members as could kneel beside it, while the Padre conducted "Light" in the darkened Cathedral.

Christmas jobs of various kinds were done by the Cape Groups. SEA POINT specialised in repairing toys and gave them to children. The CENTRAL Branch, with L.W.H., ran Christmas Trees for the Child Life Society, one for coloured children being a special success. And kiddies were taken out to camp in the Boy Scouts' big lorry. The new WYNBERG Group is going on steadily. SIMONSTOWN, another new Group, held its first Guest-night and initiation of members on January 29; with members visiting from

Central, Sea Point, Claremont, False Bay and Wynberg, they sat down 63 to supper. A Simonstown correspondent writes: "You will be pleased to hear that the Navy are still increasing in numbers as members of our Group, and we had several new men with us that night who have promised to join us. These men are coming voluntarily to us since the *Lowestoft* boys were treated by Toc H so magnificently at Lagos on their last West Coast cruise." (A letter of thanks to Toc H from the commanding officer of H.M.S. *Lowestoft*, a letter from a Toc H member of the crew and a picture of the ship at Lagos appeared in the January JOURNAL.) Simonstown, like Ladysmith (see p. 97), has been busy constructing swings for the children near the Municipality Grounds. Altogether, as another scribe has it, "things are going strong throughout the Cape Peninsula, and the family spirit is the most delightful thing about it—it is simply wonderful!"

In *Orange Free State and Griqualand West* we hear of a good start at VRYBURG, where the first five members were initiated on February 1, and "the blokeage is as fine as one could wish." Already they have tackled repairs to the lighting at the hospital, hospital visiting, Christmas hampers, help with Scouts, and the placing of two youths in employment. Among jobs contemplated is that of a "Dead Man's Party," on lines already adopted by Melton Mowbray, *i.e.*, when a patient dies at night in hospital the nurse in charge rings up a Toc H member, who calls up three others, and they go to the hospital to carry the body to the mortuary. This job is badly needed at Vryburg hospital, where there are no night porters.

SOUTH AMERICA

From Group I, BUENOS AIRES, comes the timely reminder that at this time many Branches and Groups in sea-port districts may be receiving visits from sea-going members and probationers of Group I, B.A. Will Jobmasters, Padres, and other members help them in their Toc H education and find them

jobs, if possible, in addition to extending the usual welcome? If Jobmasters will drop a line to the Group I Jobmaster, Chacabuco 723, Buenos Aires, telling him of the jobs done by visiting B.A. members, the effort will be much appreciated. The Group was founded on July 11, during Tubby's visit.